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THE SPECTATOR

Barnes & Noble Official Explains College Bookstore Prices, Policies

by Eloise Walter '11
News Writer

Many students are unclear about the Hamilton bookstore's affiliation with Barnes & Noble College Booksellers (BNC).

According to Jade Roth, the vice president of books at BNC, "[BNC] has a contractual relationship with Hamilton and an obligation to provide every book for every student. [BNC] is there to serve the campus community."

Some students feel cheated when used textbooks are not available and sell back rates are low. According to Roth, low sell back rates are unfair but explicable.

If professors notify BNC that their textbooks will be reused the following semester, sell back rates for those textbooks are half the original price. If BNC is unaware of a textbook's status for the following semester, students can expect to receive 10 to 30 percent of the original value. In this case, sell back rates are based on the textbook's national wholesale price since the textbook will circulate to a different school.

If a new edition of the textbook is published, students will not receive money back because there is no market for the book at Hamilton or any other campus. Professors can save students a lot of money by notifying BNC which textbooks they will require again next semester.

Students also wonder why BNC does not state each textbook's ISBN number before the semester starts. Fortunately, BNC has changed their policy and will begin posting ISBN numbers this summer for each textbook. This will help students find their books cheaper elsewhere before heading to Hamilton's bookstore.

Roth also explained the bookstore's used book shortage. According to Roth, many students keep their books for further use resulting in a "finite number of used books at any given time." Roth emphasized that BNC strives to obtain as many used books as possible. She said that it is in BNC's "best interest to make sure there are as many different price points as possible because we want students to shop in our store."

This article was supposed to appear in the Jan. 28 issue to accompany the editorial entitled "Easing the Book Buying Burden." However, a Barnes & Noble representative did not respond to requests for comment by the time the issue went to press.

PHOTO BY EVAN KLONDAR '11

Cadet First Class Benjamin Joelson of the United States Air Force Academy presented on military contracting.

College Holds Conference on Military Contracting

by Evan Klondar '11
Editor-at-Large

Cadet First Class Benjamin Joelson of the United States Air Force Academy believes that the public service ethic of civil servants is more trustworthy than the profit-making interests of contractors. "I'd rather have someone in uniform accountable and pay more in taxes than [have] the status quo," he said at a Levitt Center-sponsored conference on Thursday, Jan. 28.

The conference, called "Outsourcing National Security: The Law and Politics of Military Contracting," featured a presentation by Joelson followed by a panel on the problems and benefits of outsourcing.

In his paper entitled "Hyper-Contracting and National Defense: The Wages of Outsourcing in Conflict Zones," Joelson addressed the role of contractors in combat zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan. He concluded that contractors performed roles that should be reserved for the United States government and should not be outsourced.

Joelson began his presentation by detailing why contractors are in conflict today. A recent philosophy in public administration, "New Public Management," calls for outsourcing many of the government's functions to private industries. Joelson outlined two primary reasons for the recent increase in outsourcing: saving money and political benefits from the creation of private sector jobs. He believes the Department of Defense has adopted this philosophy.

Contractors are civilians who perform roles once filled by the military, including protecting diplomats and constructing bases. Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) is a major contractor in Iraq that constructs bases for the military.

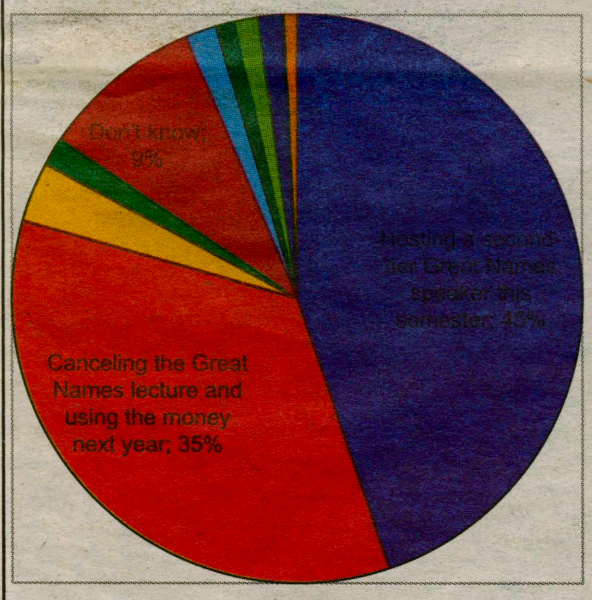
Blackwater (now Xe) was a security contractor that protected important officials, including many from the State Department. Joelson criticized the "ID/IQ" (Indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity) contracts these companies received from the government, which allowed the companies to offer unspecified services for as long as required.

He also criticized "no bid" contracts, which award contracts to the sole contractor who makes an offer.

Additionally, Joelson argued that there are significant non-monetary costs to America when giving these contracts. He pointed to two cases in particular: one, the electrocution

see ***Military,*** *page 3*

For this year's Great Names, students would prefer...


Hosting a second-tier Great Names speaker this semester; 45%
Canceling the Great Names lecture and using the money next year; 35%
Don't know; 9%
Hosting a second-tier Great Names speaker this semester
Canceling the Great Names lecture and using the money next year
Neither option
Both (write-in)
Don't know
Concert (write-in)
Graduation (write-in)
Other Events (write-in)
Students (write-in)
Other (write-in)

**Editor's Note: The Great Names Endowment can only be used for a Great Names lecture or performance. Despite student suggestions in response to the poll, the money cannot go toward graduation or other unrelated events.*

GRAPHIC BY KYE LIPPOLD '10

HamPoll Survey Shows Student Frustration Over No Great Names

by David Foster '10 and Kye Lippold '10
HamPoll Staff

The latest HamPoll student survey showed that 45 percent of respondents would prefer that Hamilton host a second-tier Great Names speaker this semester. Only 35 percent favored canceling the lecture and using the money next year as outlined in the plan announced by the Sacerdote Great Name selection committee.

While varsity athletes and "A" students were willing to wait, 65 percent of seniors called for a speaker this semester. This result reflects many seniors' concerns about losing an important part of their Hamilton experience without a Great Names lecture in their final year. As one senior put it in a comment to the survey, "Seniors are missing out entirely as a result of the recent decision." Another student expressed frustration because "Hamilton advertises [Great Names] as one of its most attractive functions."

Students also expressed their opinions about what types of speakers they would like to see in a Great Names lecture. Comedy and politics led the list with support from about 75 percent of respondents, followed by theatre or film, music, and literature (with only 20 percent expressing interest in religion). Additionally, 56 percent of respondents indicated that the speaker's fame was important or very important in deciding whether to attend the lecture. Controlling for various demographic factors suggests that seniors were much less likely to express interest in fame, again likely due to concerns about having a speaker at all.

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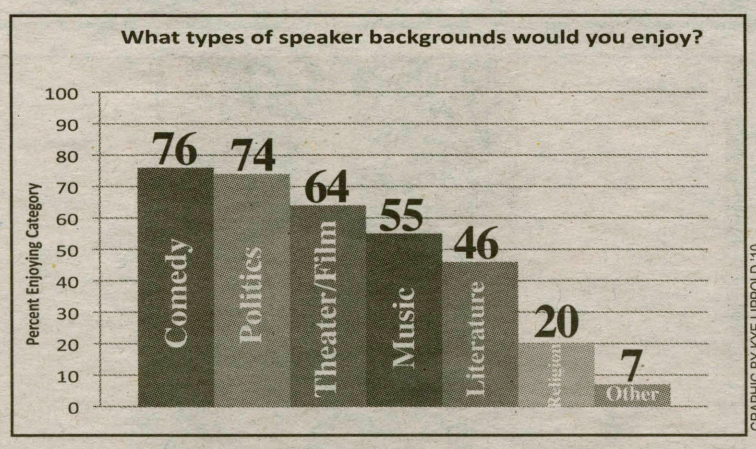
Comedians, Politicians Top List of Students' Preferred Speakers



GRAPHIC BY KYE LIPPOLD '10

from ***HamPoll,*** *page 1*

The survey also asked students their opinions about some other contentious issues on campus. Students were divided on the new print management program, with 43 percent calling it reasonable and 54 percent calling it unreasonable. However, most students wanted the anticipated price of printing after exceeding the quota to be set lower than 15 cents, with 22 percent calling for 10 cents, 54 percent for 5 cents, and 14 percent advocating for no charge whatsoever.

Regarding the outdoor ice rink in the Dunham Quad, 90 percent of respondents thought the rink was a bad use of Student Assembly funds. Out of the 500 respondents, 7 students (1.4 percent) said they had used the rink, while 56 (11.2 percent) intended to use it and 87 percent of students had no intention of using the rink.

The survey received 500 responses, for about a 29 percent response rate. The sample overrepresented white students and women relative to the overall Hamilton population, while most other demographics were comparable.

HamPoll, a student group that queries the student body about important topics, welcomes feedback at hampoll@hamilton.edu. Visit our blog at http://hampoll.blogspot.com for more surveys and analysis.

Humanities Forum Addresses Secularism in Today's Society

by Adam Fix '13
News Writer

According to Craig Calhoun, secularism is more than the absence of religion. On Thursday, Jan. 28, the New York University professor of sociology and president of the Social Science Research Council spoke on what he called "secular humanism."

His lecture, part of Hamilton's Humanities Forum, elaborated upon the various interpretations of secularism in modern times, as well as the influence that religion continues to have around the world today.

Calhoun gave a brief overview of the rise of secularism since ancient Rome. He cited the Peace of Westphalia, which concluded the age of religious wars in 1648, as the first privatization of religion, when religion ceased to play a major role in politics. This early separation of church and state marked the beginning of the secular international diplomacy practiced today.

In defining exactly what is meant by secularism, Calhoun noted the many challenges and accusations aimed at secular thought in the 21st century. He emphasized that "secularism is not simply a sort of 'absence;' rather, it is a presence."

For example, secularism in Western Europe does not traditionally mean the absence of religion, but rather the separation of church and state and the governmental policies that accompany that separation.

Furthermore, Calhoun claimed that secularism is not a strictly "neutral" attitude towards religious equality, citing a recent dispute in France over the rights of Muslim women to wear veils in public places as evidence that even a modern secular state has difficulties protecting the rights of all religions.

Finally, Calhoun discussed India, a secular state that gives equal government support to all religions rather than separating church and state entirely.

Calhoun also discussed the "secular hypothesis," which addresses the inevitable trend of secularization in the modern world. Although the number of faithful has fluctuated greatly throughout history, modernity stands out as a time when nearly all people, religious or not, understand the natural world in scientific terms, with religion relegated to a private choice among individuals.

He said that although religion's understanding of the natural world has been largely supplanted by logical reasoning, religion still plays a key role in people's individual lives, in the "ordinary happiness of people."

Calhoun, however, insists that diplomacy (as well as other secular institutions such as economics) cannot separate itself from religion entirely. According to Calhoun, the 9/11 attacks carried out by religious extremists remind America that religious beliefs still play a significant role, even in a secular age.

Calhoun asserted that although politics and science have undoubtedly become secularized in modern times, this change represents an entirely independent way of perceiving the world that goes beyond simply the removal of God. He said that while church attendance around the world has been on a steady decline, religion's influence remains considerable.

NESCAC NEWS

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

by Amanda Jordan '10
News Writer

Middlebury College

On Jan. 28, Simi Hamilton, an All-American skier from Middlebury College, received the 11th and final spot on the U.S. Olympic Cross Country Ski Team. The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association obtained one more quota spot in the new Olympic quota system and announced Hamilton, age 22, on Thursday as the final competitor at the Vancouver Olympics. Hamilton is one of the fastest sprinters in the nation. He won four qualifiers in the U.S. Ski Association Super Tour, Canadian NorAm and U.S. Championship events. Additionally, he took the U.S. title in the freestyle sprint. Last week, he led sprint qualifying by over a second in the Under 23 World Championships in Germany. Hamilton, of Aspen, Co., is the fifth skier with ties to Vermont named to the cross-country ski team. On Jan. 26, Garrot Kuzzy, another former Middlebury racer, was added to the U.S. roster. The others are Vermont natives Andy Newell, Caitlin Compton and Liz Stephen. The cross country team will arrive in Vancouver on Feb. 9 to prepare for the opening of the Vancouver Olympics on Feb. 12 and a total of 12 medal events.

Bates College

On Jan. 26, the Maine Legislature celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Bates College Outing Club. The club was established in 1920 to encourage Bates students to engage in winter outdoor activities. It is supposedly the second oldest collegiate outing club nationwide. Most noteworthy, the club was responsible for extending the Appalachian Trail to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. Ken Spaulding, Bates College Class of '73 said that Maine's Appalachian Trail is part of the National Park System, making it Maine's second oldest national park after Acadia. Spaulding also stated, "If it wasn't for the Bates Outing Club helping to scout and clear the last 40 miles of the Appalachian Trail, we probably wouldn't have the trail in Maine – it would end at Mt. Washington."

Connecticut College

For the fifth year, Connecticut College is participating in RecycleMania, a recycling competition designed to reduce campus waste and encourage campus-wide recycling. The competition begins on Feb. 1 and continues through March 27. In 2009, Connecticut College placed 27th out of the 510 participating colleges and universities. However, among the NESCAC schools, Connecticut placed first. This year, 605 colleges and universities are taking part in the RecycleMania challenge. Connecticut College hopes to continue decreasing waste production and place even higher this year by using reusable containers, printing on both sides of paper and recycling paper, cardboard, aluminum, etc.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Joan Stewart Heads NESCAC Executive Committee

by Arianne Bergman '13
News Writer

Since the middle of last summer, Hamilton President Joan Hinde Stewart has chaired the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) President's Executive Committee.

The one-year term requires Stewart to oversee policy decisions and general conference functions, such as meetings with all of the NESCAC school presidents. Following the end of her current position's term, beginning in July 2010, President Stewart will sit as past chair on the organization's Executive Committee.

As chair, Stewart presides over league meetings twice a year, where Presidents from all member institutions bring in their own ideas, thoughts from their schools and also from the two other committees involved in the NESCAC: Athletic Directors and Enrollment Managers, which Hamilton's Atheletic Director Jon Hind and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Monica Inzer are respectively chairing for the year.

The position of the NESCAC chair rotates through the presidents of each member college in a set order. The previous chair was the president of Bowdoin, and the next one will be the president of Middlebury. The next time a president of Hamilton will be the chair is in 2020, once all of the other schools have rotated through.

The NESCAC is comprised of eleven colleges, and according to its website, "the Conference was created out of a concern for the direction of intercollegiate athletic programs, and remains committed to keeping a proper perspective on the role of athletics in higher education."

The statement goes on to say that the conference's mission is to promote intercollegiate sports, while upholding the academic missions of the various schools involved.

Hamilton is not currently a complete member of the NESCAC. Seven teams - field hockey, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's lacrosse - still compete in the Liberty League. However, beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, Hamilton will compete in the NESCAC league for all sports.

Government Students Discuss Merits of Military Outsourcing

from ***Military,*** *page 1*

death of an American soldier in a shower wired by KBR employees, and the other, an incident in which Blackwater employees killed 17 Iraqi civilians. Both incidents demonstrated problems in the contracting system that the federal government is currently unable to remedy.

Joelson believes that the government should return to building its own bases and protecting its own personnel – jobs that are currently being done with the help of contractors.

Following the presentation, a panel of students from the fall session of Government 338, American Public Administration, asked questions about the paper. Other students and staff present also asked questions in a lively back-and-forth discussion with Joelson over the merits of outsourcing.

The conference also featured a panel on the limits of outsourcing. The panel was comprised of Dennis Smith from New York University, Gwendolyn Dordick from City College of the City University of New York and Hamilton Professor of Government Frank Anechiarico '71.

Smith said that the government must measure the outcomes of contracts to ensure continued success when outsourcing. Dordick agreed, noting that we need better ways of measuring success to accurately determine which contracts work.

Anechiarico addressed the problems with holding individual contractors accountable when they break the law under the current system. According to Anechiarico, it may be possible to use current law, such as the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), to bring renegade corporations to justice.

The panel presentation was followed by a large discussion among those present over the merits of outsourcing. Some called for unlimited outsourcing of government duties, while others criticized all outsourcing as antithetical to the government's mission.

Joelson is a 21-year-old senior at the United States Air Force Academy. He studied under Professor Anechiarico when Anechiarico taught at the Air Force Academy last year. The paper Joelson presented was the product of his ongoing research, representing his personal opinion, and not the opinion of the United States Air Force Academy or any agency within the United States government.

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SA Update

Future of Diversity and Accessibility Committee; Passion Pit to Play C&C Day

by Eve Denton '12
Student Assembly Correspondent

The Feb. 1 Student Assembly meeting featured a discussion about the future of the Diversity and Accessibility Committee. The Committee was originally created to focus on underrepresented groups, but the creation of the Cultural Education Center has diminished the role of the Committee by taking over many of the jobs for which they were once responsible. Student Assembly members discussed different ways that the Diversity and Accessibility Committee could evolve and continue to serve the needs of Hamilton students.

Due to the success of the Committee-organized New York City bus trip last year, one member suggested running more trips like this in the future to both NYC and Boston. Other members felt this would pull the Committee further from their original mission since it falls more under the work done by the Student Interests Committee. Another member raised the possibility of focusing more on taking students to local spots like the Utica mosque or bringing more cultural activities to campus for community members to participate in. The final suggestion was to examine the recently approved Statement of Community Values for an idea as to how the Diversity and Accessibility Committee could continue to help Hamilton.

Various announcements were also made at the meeting. The Food Committee met with Bon Appétit General Manager Pat Raynard to talk about the possibility of putting chocolate chips in Commons and fixing the milkshake machine in the Diner. Social Traditions reminded everyone that FebFest will take place Feb. 13-20, and buttons will be available for purchase throughout the week before. Taking into account ideas from the previous meeting's brainstorming session, parking is now permitted in the Admissions lot between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m. The meeting ended on an exciting note, as it was announced that the Class and Charter Day band will be Passion Pit.

The Career Center

EASTERN COLLEGE CAREER DAYS

A special interviewing day for SENIORS only!

Eastern College Career Day (ECCD)- New York is an opportunity to interview for full-time, post-graduate opportunities with employers from the New York City area.

Friday, March 26, 2010; 9:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m.
Radisson Martinique on Broadway, 49 W 32nd Street,New York, NY 10001

To view employers, positions and apply for jobs:

Log onto ***http://eccdb.erecruiting.com/er/security/login.jsp.***
Employers will select candidates based solely on application materials.
Contact the Career Center at x4346 for help with your cover letters & resumes.

Deadline for applying is February 15th

Participating Employers:

Policy Analyst | APPRISE
Litigation Paralegal | Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
Corporate Paralegal | Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
Corporate Legal Assistant | Cravath, Swaine & Moore
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Research Associate | NERA Economic Consulting
Research Assistant | The Rockefeller University
Legal Assistant (Paralegal) | Shearman & Sterling
Legal Assistant | Sidley Austin LLP
Sales Associate | SmartBrief
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Session Assistant | Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
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EDITORIAL

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

Open Curriculum Still Closing Out Students

As a liberal arts institution with an open curriculum, Hamilton encourages students to take a wide breadth of classes, yet many students face difficulty when attempting to do so. Students at a school like Hamilton should be well rounded in the many areas that interest them. However, it is often the case that by the time a student's junior or senior year rolls around, the opportunity for one's expansion of intellectual growth is gone. The current curriculum and system of prerequisites work to undermine the "Open Curriculum" of which Hamilton is so proud.

It is reasonable for the College to think that students will take a variety of different courses at the beginning rather than at the end of their college career. Ideally, we spend our first two years discovering our interests and then the following two years focusing our studies on the concentrations we declare. However, that is not always the reality. Some students are forced by their potential concentrations to focus their studies early on, thus closing themselves off to classes they may want to take later on in their time at Hamilton. This should not be the case. Those students who are interested in challenging an undeveloped aspect of their intellect should be given the opportunity to explore something new and interesting as they wind down their time at Hamilton after following a certain path for two or three years.

Of course, we realize the obstacles that the school would encounter in attempting to provide more academic opportunities, and we would never suggest sacrificing the academic aspects that make Hamilton unique. We appreciate the school's commitment to hiring quality professors, keeping class sizes small and ensuring that underclassmen can still take the classes they want and need to take.

There are other plausible solutions, however, to the current problems with our open curriculum. One option would be to designate a quota for upperclass non-concentrators in classes from which they are normally barred. The majority of the class could be reserved for underclassmen, while a small number of spots could be left open for interested upperclassmen. This would prevent professors from having to sign ineligible upperclassmen into their classes, which either displaces eligible underclassmen or increases class size.

Another solution would be for each department to offer general classes to students of all class years who are interested in a basic knowledge of a specific subject. Many introductory classes are aimed at students who plan to continue the study of that subject. This puts students looking for exposure to a broad set of subjects at a disadvantage. Some departments have recognized this. The physics department, for example, offers a class titled "How Things Work," which explores basic principles of physics and is open to students from all class years. More departments should follow this example, thereby satisfying the interests of students looking to learn about topics outside of their focused area of study.

The "Open Curriculum" is, without a doubt, one of the most unique selling points of a Hamilton education. Unfortunately, current policies prevent students from enjoying such freedom. Right now, the curriculum at Hamilton is better described as simply lacking core requirements. As the Committee on Academic Policy looks to the future, it must pursue means to make our curriculum truly open.

THE SPECTATOR

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator **Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not neccesarily the opinions of *The Specator*, its editors or the Media Board.**

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

Nevertheless, The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.

2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.

3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.

4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.

5. If a piece is determined to be liablous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unneccessary and/or unwarrented invasion of privacy, or an unneccessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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FEATURES

Religion Department Sponsors Onondaga Land Rights Events

by Kari Arneson '10
Features Writer

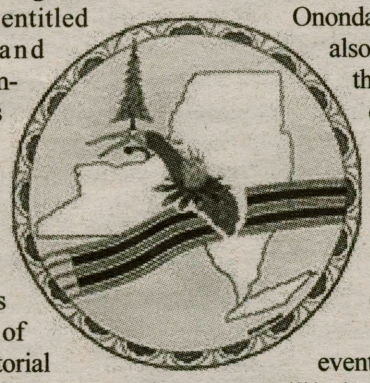
Next Monday, Feb. 8, the introductory kick-off for a year-long series of events dealing with Onondaga Land Rights will be held in Syracuse at 7 p.m.. The event is part of a series sponsored by several colleges in the area, including Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, LeMoyne College, SUNY Empire State College, Onondaga Community College and Hamilton College.

WWW.SYRACUSE.COM

The Onondaga Longhouse (above) is the centerpiece of the Onondaga community, rich with tradition.

Professor Erich Fox Tree, assistant professor of religious studies, proposed that the department co-sponsor the series. He said that the program of events will deal with Onondaga Land Rights and how these affect and can guide both the indigenous peoples in this area and people in other regions.

The series, entitled "Onondaga Land Rights & Our Common Future," was organized by Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON), a grassroots organization that supports a fair settlement of the ongoing territorial disputes with the Onondaga Nation, including recognition of and fair dealings with the sovereign traditional government of the Onondaga. Professor Fox Tree added, "NOON also supports education about Onondaga traditions: scientific, medicinal, environmental and agricultural knowledge; religion/spirituality; governance and modes of peace-making."

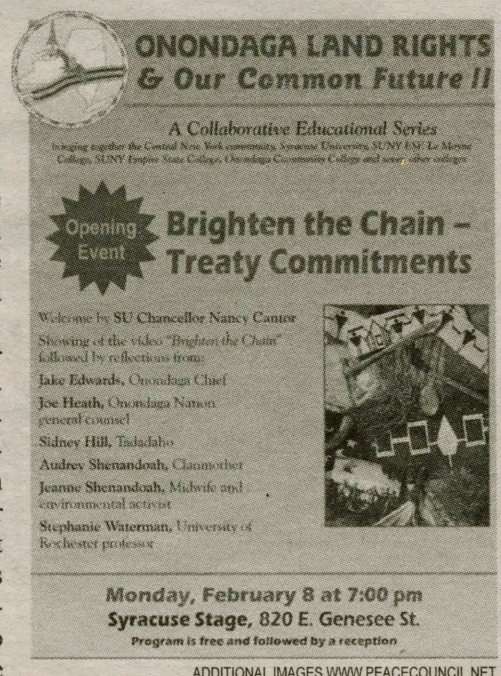


The event on Monday will include the showing of a short film entitled "Brighten the Chain," followed by a discussion of the film. "But the program for February 8 will primarily consist of presentations by Onondaga political, spiritual and clan leaders," said Professor Fox Tree. "The event and the whole series will offer great opportunities for folks to learn from and engage Onondaga wisdom."

The opening event this Monday should appeal to a wide variety of students and faculty. Professor Fox Tree said that students with a variety of areas of interest, including Religious Studies, Environmental Studies, Government and earth sciences, should attend. "People opposed to war, people interested in helping the environment or just seeking some wise guidance should consider attending."

Speaking of his hopes for Hamilton students' interest and participation in the series, Professor Fox Tree said, "Hamilton's Department of Religious Studies is co-sponsoring the whole program, with the hope that it will give Hamilton students the opportunity to not only meet experts in local Native traditions and and learn about Onondaga religion but also see and engage the larger issues of how Onondaga religion relates to land, law, peace, justice, health, wealth and the environment."

Subsequent events in the series will be happening through Dec. Professor Fox Tree said he hopes to arrange transportation to Syracuse for students interested in future events. All events, including the kick-off on Feb. 8, are free and will take place at Syracuse Stage, 820 E. Genesee St. in Syracuse.


ONONDAGA LAND RIGHTS
& Our Common Future II
A Collaborative Educational Series
Opening Event
Brighten the Chain – Treaty Commitments
Welcome by SU Chancellor Nancy Cantor
Showing of the video "Brighten the Chain" followed by reflections from:
Jake Edwards, Onondaga Chief
Joe Heath, Onondaga Nation general counsel
Sidney Hill, Tadadaho
Audrey Shenandoah, Clanmother
Jeanne Shenandoah, Midwife and environmental activist
Stephanie Waterman, University of Rochester professor
Monday, February 8 at 7:00 pm
Syracuse Stage, 820 E. Genesee St.
Program is free and followed by a reception

ADDITIONAL IMAGES WWW.PEACECOUNCIL.NET

AHI Sponsors Undergrad Fellows

by Rebecca Pomerantz '12
Features Writer

In 2006 something groundbreaking was presented to the trustees of Hamilton College: the proposal for an Alexander Hamilton Center for the progress of the study of Western Civilization. Robert Paquette, James Bradfield and Douglas Ambrose, all Hamilton professors, were the original proponents of the center. Due to complications between the proposers and the college, the Alexander Hamilton Institute (AHI) moved off of the Hamilton campus and into a building in downtown Clinton in 2007.

Despite this controversial split, the institue has proven very effective not only with Hamilton students but the Central New York population as a whole. The Institute seems to provide something that is missing for students across the nation: an open forum to discuss all sides and opinions on events in the Western world as they apply to college students.

One of the programs most recently introduced by the AHI in the fall of 2009 is the AHI Undergraduate Fellows program. Senior AHI Fellows Professor Theodore Eismeier of the government department and Professor James Bradfield of the economics Department select undergraduate fellows through a formal application process. Although the undergraduate program is relatively new, it has achieved success so far and continues to grow.

Eismeier said that although the Undergraduate program just started this past fall, the amount of Undergraduate Fellows has reached over 30. The fellows are not only accepted from Hamilton, but from all over the Central New York area.

Beth Foster'12, a undergraduate fellow from Hamilton explained, "Much of the work at AHI is student run, and fellows take an active role in many of the meetings, panels and discussions at the AHI, which can range from topics such as federalism, healthcare or faculty panels on the future of the liberal arts education."

Undergraduate fellows reap the benefits of the various programs that the AHI offers—including colloquia, conferences and speakers—with opportunities for both leadership and learning. In explaining the leadership opportunities for undergraduate fellows, Eismeier says, "undergraduate fellows are often leaders of discussions held by the Publius Society and other groups. Trying to revive Hamilton's tradition of public speaking, we encourage undergraduate fellows to make public presentations about course research, senior projects or other subjects of interest to faculty and fellows as well as friends and family."

Hamilton undergraduate fellow Will Leubsdorf'10 said, "I've helped lead two Publius discussions on John Yoo's interpretation of the Constitution and one recently on health care."

Not only do the undergraduate fellows get the opportunity

*see **AHI**, page 7*

WWW.THEAHI.ORG

The institue is located off the Village Green in Clinton.

Getting Paid for an Unpaid Internship

by Xiaolu Xu '12
Features Writer

Over the summer, Evin Adolph '10 was able to secure her dream internship with the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine through a Hamilton alumnus. Because of the program's budget, however, the company she wanted to work for was not able to offer her a paid position. She applied for summer internship funding from the Career Center and received a $2,500 stipend. Reflecting on her summer experience, Evin acknowledges that without the supplementary funding, she wouldn't have been able to pursue this internship.

Every Spring Hamilton students scramble to plan a meaningful and productive summer. Considering the current economy, more students than ever will likely find themselves in a situation similar to Evin's. Students often sacrifice more appealing or career-related internship or research opportunities to work a paid summer part-time job. But did you know that Hamilton offers generous support to students to overcome this kind financial dilemma? Every year Hamilton funds a significant number of summer positions for students.

On Jan. 27, the Diversity and Social Justice Project held a panel of student presentations on summer internships. Six students, representing seven types of Hamilton summer funding, talked about the details of their experiences last summer. Currently, a variety of summer funding opportunities are devoted to social work, social science research, science research, creative projects, clinical internships and unpaid internships. The aid ranges from $2,500 to $4,000 per recipient, which is almost equivalent to what a normal summer job pays.

Aid ranges from $2,500 to $4,000 per recipient, which is almost equivalent to what a summer job pays.

A couple of representatives have described their summer research and internships as some of the most compelling and fulfilling experiences they have ever had. As Robyn Gibson '10 points out, "Research is a skill. It is an extremely good opportunity for me to conduct the Africana study research under the Kirkland Endowment because Professor Nieves was able to help closely to develop the skill of research with me." Valerie Valant '10, a pre-med senior, said that the clinical internship in Burke Rehabilitation Center taught her patience as a medical worker.

Though the competition of applications is always fierce, Prof. Nancy Rabinowitz, who is in charge of the Kirkland Endowment, encouraged students to inquire further about funding. She said those in charge are usually happy to help. The requirements vary according to the funding one applies for, and a good proposal is critical for securing the funds for research.

Doing research beforehand and talking with academic advisors you plan to collaborate with will definitely narrow down potential topics, as well as assist you in writing a good proposal. The success of obtaining Career Center funding largely depends on the effort the student himself is willing to put in ahead of time.

Habitat at Hamilton: A Good Cause Goes Green

by Emily Anderson '13
Features Writer

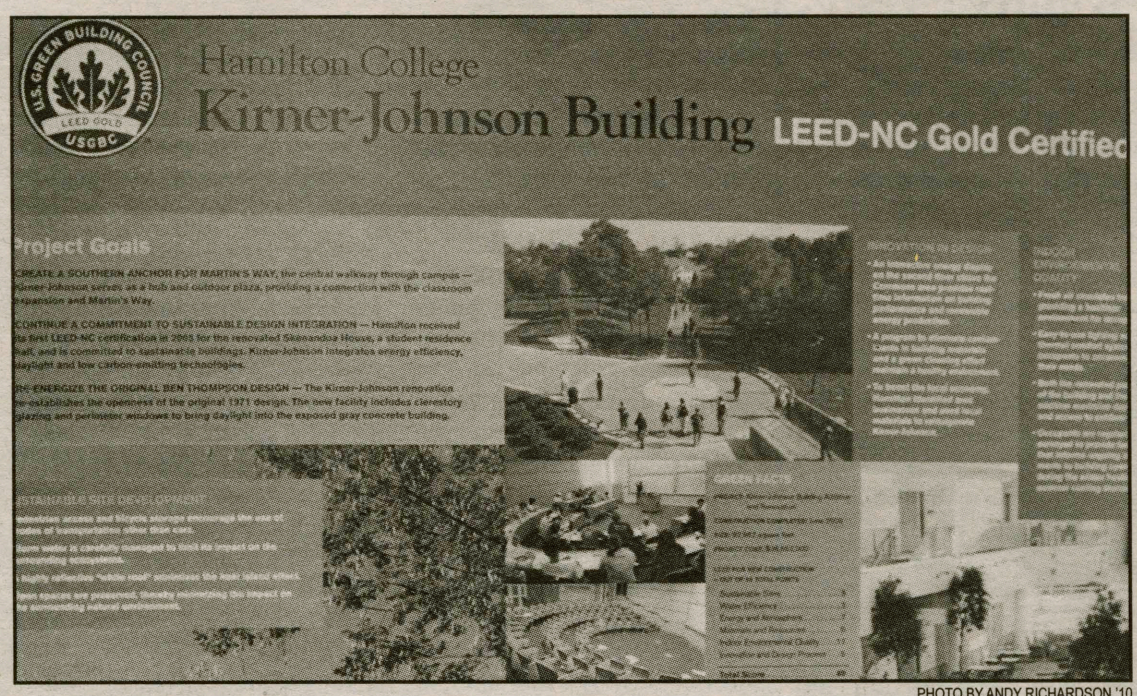


PHOTO BY ANDY RICHARDSON '10

Hamilton's Habitat for Humanity hopes to build more environmentally friendly houses.

You may have heard of Hamilton's Habitat for Humanity Chapter from their numerous all-campus emails. The chapter, which began in 2003, takes groups of students to build houses in Whitesboro and Herkimer County on weekends.

The organization selects families in need, such as single parents with children or large families who need more space. The Wins, one family who has worked with Hamilton's Habitat chapter, came to Utica after fleeing the Burmese dictatorship.

The chosen families must put in 500 "sweat equity hours" to the house, and pay a no-interest mortgage. Additionally, families must make twenty-five to eighty percent of the average Oneida County Income, which is $50,000. This means that the highest possible income of a Habitat family would be $40,000.

This year Habitat for Humanity has taken on a new objective: building efficiently. Amy Hilts, the co-chair of the Green Building Committee for Oneida County's Habitat for Humanity chapter, detailed just how this process will take place. Two buildings that are currently planned will be built according to Energy Star specifications, the guidelines for energy efficiency set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, the Oneida County Habitat for Humanity will implement as many LEED specifications as possible.

According to Hilts, building efficiently means "understanding and specifying during the planning stage" how to meet efficiency goals. First, the potential building site must be evaluated. The site may not be environmentally sensitive and should be near an existing community. Homes should be served by existing infrastructure and follow development patterns that allow for biking and walking.

When it comes to the actual building process, practices and materials must be evaluated. This means increasing the insulation of windows and doors, as well as evaluating the appliances and equipment. Efforts to increase recycled building materials and recycle and manage waste also factor into the process. Decreasing waste from the actual building site means less waste goes to landfill, so Habitat will do the best it can to produce minimal waste.

In addition to helping the environment, an ecologically friendly house also benefits the homeowner, and Family Support makes sure that future homeowners understand these advantages. An energy efficient home is comfortable, healthy and decreases utility bills because less energy is used. Additionally, efficiency will ultimately increase the home's resale value.

Hamilton students who are interested in community service and environmentally sound projects are encouraged to get involved with Habitat's weekend builds. Co-presidents Alyssa Kanagaki '10 and Nick Richard '11 both agree that Habitat is a meaningful and fun way to get involved with the community.

Kanagaki feels that Habitat has contributed to her personal growth at Hamilton and enabled her to better understand others. "You never know if you're going to be in a similar situation one day," she points out. Richard added that Habitat, "provides another perspective of the area surrounding the college."

On "Women's Issues," Men Listen

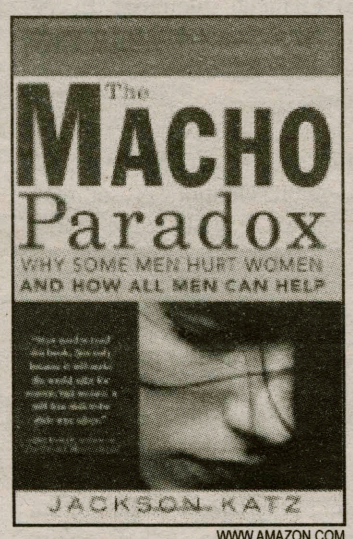
by Emma Considine '12
Features Writer

A woman is sexually assaulted every two minutes in the United States. This disturbing statistic is evidence that it cannot just be sociopaths who commit gender violence. No, writes activist Jackson Katz on his website, "men…who sexually harass and abuse women are… disturbingly normal. They're normal, average guys." Although we don't typically acknowledge it, harassment and abuse can occur on a liberal arts campus.

That is why Katz, a leader in the gender violence prevention movement, will present a lecture on masculinity, the media and violence on Tuesday, Feb. 9 in the Chapel at 7 p.m.. Even though the lecture is concerning violence against women, typically thought of as a "woman's issue," the talk will be mainly geared towards male students.

Katz is a highly accomplished speaker in his field, boasting numerous award-winning videos, a book entitled T*he Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help* and co-founder of the Mentors in Violence Program (MVP). Katz launched MVP in order to influence young men and women of all socioeconomic and racial backgrounds to promote gender violence prevention in the school setting.

MVP is directed towards both men and women, but Katz is more concerned with male culture and how it perpetuates sexual abuse and domestic violence. In a 2000 interview, Jackson explained that "there are so many different ways in which the culture contributes to the high rates of sexual violence." The activist cited the ideological role of media in helping to shape gender constructions,



WWW.AMAZON.COM

Author Jackson Katz will be speaking at Hamilton on Feb. 9

especially masculinities. He states that in order to secure effective prevention, "introspection [is needed] on a national or cultural level, as well as on an individual level."

Jackson believes that the media, which he calls on his website "the great pedagogical force of our time", and its endorsement of violent male culture feed this pandemic. In an interview with the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Jackson explained that in the media, "male bodies grew more powerful, [whereas] the ideal woman's body has become more frail." Jackson also cites "a level of callousness and brutality that's entered the culture that was not around a generation ago." This combination supports and even idolizes violence against women in ways that translate into society.

The issue of gender violence is especially significant at Hamilton, a college campus. The Department of Justice reports that one in five college-age women will be the victim of attempted or actual sexual assault on their campuses. Unfortunately, 70 percent of these attacks will go unreported due to the fact that nearly 80 percent of attackers are friends or acquaintances of the victim. The statistics for campus assaults are disturbingly high due to an element which fosters violence–alcohol. Drinking is involved in 75 percent of these attacks, accentuating the fact that, under the wrong influence, any one can be an attacker or victim.

So what can male students do if they can't make Jackson's speech? On a pamphlet he gives out at his lectures, Jackson advises men to "have the courage to look inward" and to "question [their] own attitudes" as introspection can be the strongest form of support and prevention. What Jackson encourages most, however is to "set the bar a little higher for what it means to be a 'good guy,' " says Jackson. "Just saying, 'I'm not a rapist' doesn't quite get there."

FROM WHERE I SIT

HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

by Bianca Dragan '10
Senior Editor

Tune in monday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. for Hamilton's own ESOL Radio Show, "From Where I Sit," on WHCL 88.7 FM or log on to www.whcl.org.

The ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students run a talk show featuring music and insights about their native countries: Colombia, South Africa, Romania, Iran, Ecuador, China, Vietnam and Zimbabwe, just to name a few.

Hosted by international students (Fallon Chipidza '10 and Lennox Chitsike '13 from Zimbabwe, Ron Wai '10 from Hong Kong and Trang Nguyen '13 from Vietnam), the 60-minute, live show seeks to discuss topics that are either directly related to Hamilton or newsworthy in the DJs' countries.

With every song, the listeners learn something interesting about every DJ or guest's native country, about its culture ("What similar cultural ideas/venues does your country share with the U.S.?"), political traditions ("Are there specific traditional myths associated with the ideology in your country?"), musical instruments or its artists and its people ("If you could highlight a unique characteristic of your people, what would it be?").

In many ways, "From Where I Sit" is a musical travel guide, with a feast of unusual sounds, unknown words and catchy rhythms.

Here is a sneak peak of a possible "From Where I Sit" playlist:

South Africa:
"Abantwana Basethempeleni" - Ladysmith Black Mambazo

"Vul'indlela" - Brenda Fassie

Romania:
"Doina de Jale" - Gheroghe Zamfir (on Pan Flute)

"Zig Zagga" – Loredana

Colombia:
"Bonita" - Cabas

Cuba:
"La negra tiene tumbao" – Celia Cruz

Sweden:
"Honey Honey" - ABBA

Bosnia and Herzegovina:
"Čoček (Wedding)" - Goran Bregovic

Mexico:
"El Presente" - Julieta Venegas

Ecuador:
"Cambia tu estrategia" - Fausto Miño

Alexander Hamilton Institute Launches New Program

*from **AHI**, page 5*

to be leaders of such events, but they are also allowed the chance to meet on a personal level with the visitors that pass through the AHI. The newest addition to the Undergraduate Fellows program is the "Leadership Luncheon" program. Founding fellow of the AHI, Professor Robert Paquette of the history department described these events: "They occur at least once a month during the academic year and consist of intensive exchanges between AHI undergraduate fellows and distinguished guests who pass through the AHI."

Through opportunities such as these luncheons, undergraduate fellows not only benefit academically, but often times make contacts for their careers later in life. Paquette said, "One of the AHI guests, Roger Kimball, was so impressed with one student at a Leadership Luncheon, that he provided his card and encouraged him to meet with him in New York City to discuss an internship."

Commenting on the intellectual stimulation at the AHI, undergraduate fellows seem to have endless enjoyment and appreciation of the discussions they take part in. Undegraduate fellow Elizabeth Farrington '10 said, "My experiences at the AHI have been overwhelmingly positive." Leubsdorf added, "My experience with the AHI has been great. The AHI provides a great forum for discussion of major issues, bringing a range of students with a diverse range of perspectives to have serious discussions of important issues. That type of balanced discourse is unfortunately far too rare, both on this campus and in American society generally."

"I have been amazed at not only how much I've learned from various professors and speakers, but also from my fellows students," Foster said, " This is something I feel is extremely unique to the AHI, and is difficult to find elsewhere on campus."

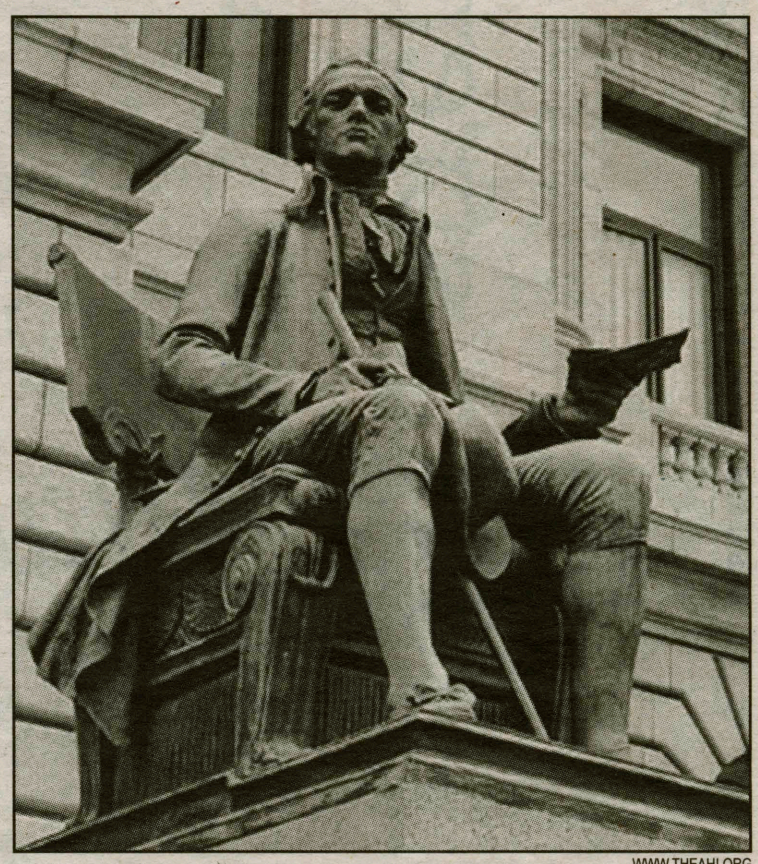
It is easy to assume that there may be a communication gap between the students at the AHI events and the visiting speakers. In addressing how discussion is conducted, Paquette says, "I would say the emphasis is on civil exchange and conversation at a high level. In some cases, students lead the discussion. In other cases, a guest may start the event with brief introductory remarks and then raise questions for students to answer. Some times discussions proceed informally with students and guests gathered in a circle savoring questions and answers with a cup of coffee or a glass of Cabernet in hand."

The recent undergraduate fellows program has not only been meaningful to the fellows but also to their guests. A recent AHI visitor commented to Professor Paquette, "I greatly enjoyed the trip to Hamilton, and (even more) enjoyed meeting your fine and well informed students."

Some of the Hamilton College students who are currently AHI Undergraduate Fellows include Bianca Dragan '10, Cara Daniel '12, Woodger Faugus '12, Beth Foster '12, Will Leubsdorf '10, Adam Vorcheimer '11, Liz Farrington '10, John Dunn '10 and Stephen Okin '10.

Eismeier suggests that those who are interested in becoming an AHI Undergraduate Fellow contact him as it is a rolling application process and they are considering students in all class years.

In referring to the AHI Undergraduate Fellows, Farrington says, "We are all there to seek answers to age-old philosophical, political, economic and religious questions—though we don't agree on the solutions, I find the journey is edifying in the way I think every college experience should be."



WWW.THEAHI.ORG

The Alexander Hamilton Institute derives its logo (above) from a statue of Alexander Hamilton located in Cleveland, Ohio. According to their website, an inscription on the statue "suggests the paradox of civil liberty, that the sacrifice of some measure of individual freedom is essential to the enjoyment of any meaningful, morally regulated freedom."

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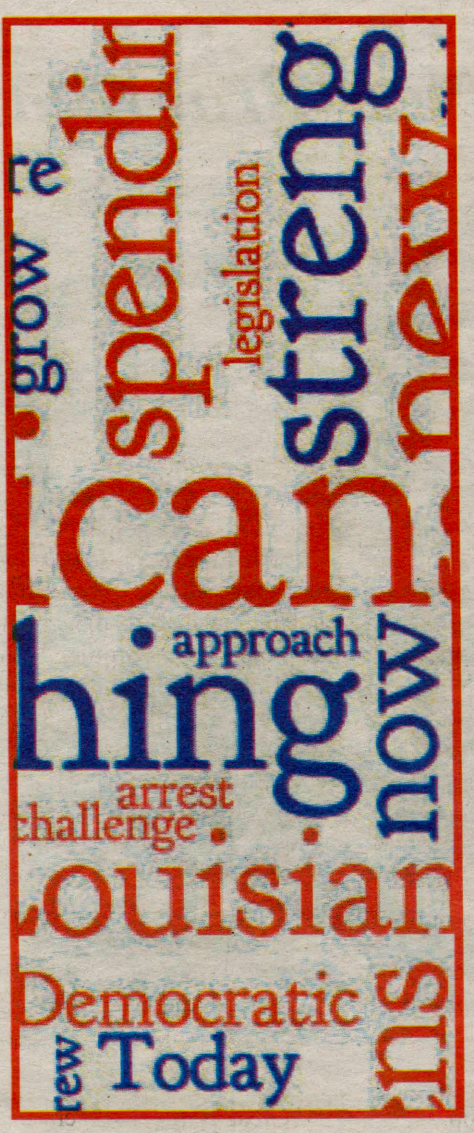


Face Off:

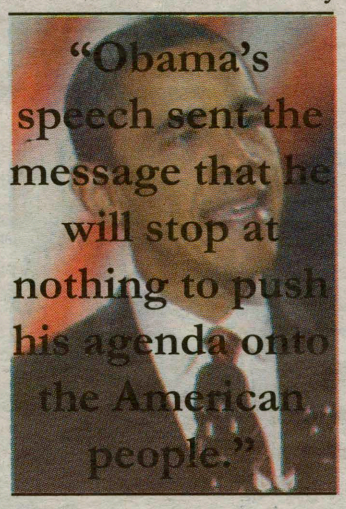
Is President Obama to Blame for the State of the Union?

Yes

by Kayla Safran '13
Opinion Contributor

A year into office, Barack Obama's presidency is already riddled with discontent from both sides in Washington. With approval numbers below 50 percent, President Obama attempted to make a speech last Wednesday that would restore the American people's hope in his presidency. But rhetoric and empty promises could not help Obama this time.

The President needed to wow the American people with a sincere speech that outlined a Clinton-like move toward center-of-the-road policy objectives, but his State of the Union address was just more of the same. He spoke of bipartisanship and reining in federal spending, but behind these empty phrases the details of his policy aims displayed nothing more than executive arrogance and a refusal to listen or respond to the American people.



In terms of his overall message, Mr. Obama's speech was rife with contradictions. He said what Americans want to hear when he promised to begin fixing the deficit, yet stated his number one goal for 2010 is another stimulus package, disguised under the term "jobs bill." He promised to freeze government spending, but then qualified that statement by excluding defense and entitlement programs, which happen to comprise more than 70 percent of federal spending. His general message was that Washington is corrupt with "partisanship" and "pettiness," and "has been unable or unwilling to solve any of our problems," yet his policy goals all consisted of vast expansion of the federal government's role in areas such as education, energy and healthcare. As political pundit Mark Steyn asked, does Obama even listen to his own speeches?

The tone of Obama's speech was as perturbing as the extensive inconsistencies in his message. His bordering on arrogant attitude was most clearly evident in his account of the backlash against the healthcare bill. Obama interpreted growing discontent as ignorance rather than a sign that a different solution is needed.

He said, "I take my share of the blame for not explaining it more clearly to the American people," indicating that the only reason Americans could possibly be opposed to his healthcare plan is because they don't understand the issue well enough.

Obama continued this outrageous display of self-righteousness by attacking the Supreme Court for its decision concerning campaign finance last week. Calling for Congressional action to "correct" the court's decision, Obama overstepped the Constitution's separation of powers clause and openly politicized the one branch of government that is meant to remain distant from politics. This assault on the Court was inappropriate and unwarranted during such a formal event as the State of the Union.

Obama's speech sent the message that he will stop at nothing to push his agenda onto the American people. Rather than moving toward moderation and considering the protests of Americans as a sign that they people do not share in his vision for the country, Obama emphasized the same unwanted policies and covered them up with feel-good rhetoric and unlikely promises.

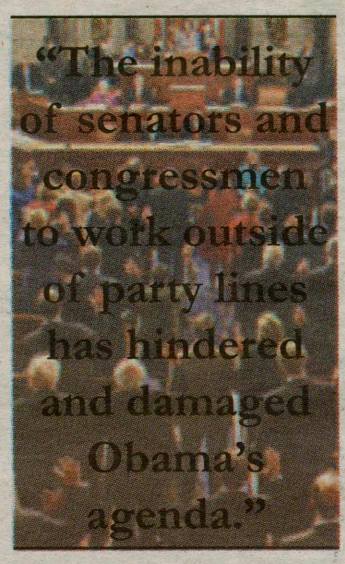
No

by William Rusche '13
Opinion Writer

On the surface, President Barack Obama's first State of the Union address was not anything spectacular. He made a large number of proposals but very few were surprising. The speech was characterized by Obama's trademark soaring rhetoric and punctuated with applause from Democrats while the Republicans sat in silence.

However, despite the predictability, the tone Obama took with the joint houses of Congress was noticeably critical. He spoke not just *to* the gathered legislature but *of* them. There was an unwavering notion that the President was playing the role of a teacher scolding children for misbehaving.

Approximately one year has elapsed since the Obama administration assumed power, and, in that time, his transformation from a candidate of ideals to a President of action has not been easy.



As Obama himself stated, "I took office amid two wars, an economy rocked by severe recession, a financial system on the verge of collapse and a government deeply in debt." He went on to admit that for many Americans, his promise of "change has not come fast enough," and that his administration "has had some political setbacks this year… some of them deserved."

Built up as a political messiah, Obama may indeed be to blame in part for the large gap created between the lofty expectations of his presidency and reality. However, his speech implied that a much larger percentage of setbacks in achieving his promised agenda rest with the currently politically divided Congress. The inability of senators and congressmembers to work outside of party lines has hindered and damaged Obama's agenda, hampering his goals and hurting his approval ratings. Last Wednesday night's address served as an attempt by Obama to shift the balance of blame back to where it belongs: on Congress.

"What frustrates the American people is a Washington where every day is Election Day," Obama quipped. "We cannot wage a perpetual campaign where the only goal is to see who can get the most embarrassing headlines about their opponent – a belief that if you lose, I win."

The problem Obama addressed is the polarization of politics stemming from the concept of party unity that has come to define the 111th Congress. Even with the recent election of Scott Brown in Massachusetts, the Democrats in the Senate are still within one vote of circumventing the Republican Party by enacting cloture on debate. With margins that slim, the vote of a single senator (Liberman, Snowe, etc.) can determine the fate of any bill. This has led both the Democrat and Republican caucuses to put party loyalty as top priority, leading to a lack of focus on the matters that affect everyday Americans.

In response to this, Obama brought up a valid point near the end of his speech by stating "every time politicians tear each other down instead of lifting this country up, we lose faith… no wonder there's so much cynicism out there... so much disappointment."

If nothing else, the 2010 State of the Union address was a strategic warning from President Obama. While reiterating his agenda, he calmly and effectively reminded Congress that they too have a responsibility in our government and that our political parties, while unifying on some dimensions, also threaten to divide. It will be interesting to see how Congress reacts in the coming weeks and whether or not it will change its behavior in response to Obama's speech.

State of the Union: Professor Commentary

"The SOTUS gives us a preview of the administration's agenda for the upcoming year, but they have little if any impact on politics. At best, Presidents get a small and temporary boost in their approval ratings following the speech. It's also important to remember that the TV audiences for the SOTUS have fallen in recent years and have become increasingly partisan as Republicans tend to tune out Democratic presidents and Democrats skip Republican presidents."

- Professor Philip Klinkner,
James S. Sherman Professor of Government

"I was surprised by the lack of focus on health care. The President's signature domestic legislation is in trouble, and he buries it in the middle of his speech, after things like infrastructure, trade and education? I think the President's new jobs initiative and his downplaying of health care signals a real concern about the Scott Brown vote and the Tea Party backlash."

- Professor Gary Wyckoff,
Associate Professor of Government
and Director, Public Policy Program

"Thus far Obama has governed on behalf of Wall Street, the big insurance and pharmaceutical companies and the military-industrial complex. To be sure, even very modest progressive policies such as those proposed in his state of the union speech face opposition from both parties. Nevertheless, if Obama wants to live up to his rhetoric he needs to regulate the banks, end costly imperial adventures, and curb mega-profits and waste of a broken health care system. Then he must respond to the pressing problems of ordinary Americans, starting with jobs and mortgage relief. Otherwise, he will preside over continuing social and economic disarray and the further advance of right-wing populism."

- Professor Alan Cafruny,
Henry Bristol Professor of International Affairs

Letters to the Editor

RE: Federal Work study

To the Editor:

As the person responsible for the administration of the Federal Work-Study program on the Hamilton College campus, I would have welcomed a visit from Mr. Leubsdorf while he was gathering information for his Letter to the Editor entitled "Is Hamilton Violating the Federal Work-Study Laws?" in the Jan. 28 edition of *The Spectator*. Unfortunately, because he did not do all of his homework, his letter is misinformed. It's my pleasure now to provide a full accounting of the facts.

Hamilton College is in complete compliance with all laws governing the administration of the Federal Work-Study program. In addition, as part of the routine annual Financial Aid audit, Federal Work-Study information is meticulously reviewed by an external accounting firm (that is well versed in the federal requirements of the program). The feedback from this process continues to be favorable with no issues found.

The $677,689 amount reported by Mr. Leubsdorf was provided to Peterson's by the Financial Aid Office on March 21, 2008 in response to the "Peterson's Annual Survey of Undergraduate Financial Aid 2007-2008." The dollar amount was given in answer to the question "Enter total dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree seeking undergraduates" for need-based total dollars. This amount does not represent the federal work-study allocation from the United States Department of Education for the 2007-2008 academic year (as listed below). Please note that this information is also available on Hamilton College's Institutional Research Web site under the Common Dataset 2007-2008 (Section H, Financial Aid, Question H1, Federal Work-Study) for need-based work-study aid awarded to students for the 2007-2008 academic year.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, Hamilton College received $283,165.00 from the United States Department of Education to fund our Federal Work-Study program. Included in this amount is $49,453.00 which represents the allocation made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This amount ($283,165) is slightly less than the overall average ($297,649.50) based on funding levels received for the last several years as follows:

2008-2009 = $258,412.00
2007-2008 = $266,520.00
2006-2007 = $257,572.00
2005-2006 = $279,141.00
2004-2005 = $302,719.00
2003-2004 = $349,647.00
2002-2003 = $384,020.00

The Administration of Hamilton College long ago recognized that this funding, while very much appreciated, would not support the vast number of Federal Work-Study eligible students working on campus. For example, during the 2008-2009 academic year, the Financial Aid Office awarded $592,902.00 to students receiving need-based financial aid that were Federal Work-Study eligible. The College supported this action by using non-financial aid funds to sustain the payroll for these students. During this same period (2008-2009), approximately $1.5 million dollars was expended on student wages, including students not on work study as well as those receiving Federal Work-Study (FWS).

Community service is an integral part of the Hamilton environment. The regulations require that a "school must use at least 7% of its FWS allocation to employ students in community service jobs with at least one FWS student employed as a reading tutor for children in a reading tutoring project or performing family literacy activities in a family literacy project." (Page 6-25, Chapter 2, Volume 6, 2009-2010 Federal Student Aid Handbook) Based on the 2009-2010 federal allocation, $19,821.55 (7% of the $283,165.00) must be used in community service employment. Hamilton meets this 7% requirement through a variety of sources – Levitt Center, Bonner Leaders Program, Project Shine and ABC House. We also incorporate the library, athletic facilities, Great Names workers and English as a Second Language tutors when we can demonstrate that those jobs serve individuals in our greater community. As new programs emerge on campus (i.e., COOP Service Interns), we will also consider them as a potential resource.

In recognition that some students were having difficulty in finding employment during the Spring 2009 semester, a task force (with representation from the Financial Aid Office, Business Office and Human Resources)

see ***Letters,*** *page 10*

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Passion Pit to play Class and Charter Day: That's so cool that it almost made me forget that the administration is trying to kill Class and Charter Day.	The Freshman 15: Just because you made it through the first semester doesn't mean you're safe now, especially since Nancy Thompson informed everyone that mushrooms and cocaine do not constitute an acceptable breakfast.	Renovating ELS: Let me put it this way - you can put a hooker in a gown and bring her to a ball, but everyone who's had sex in her basement is still going to know the truth.
Hockey team goes 5-0-1 in their last six games: experiencing a winning streak the likes of which the football team hasn't seen since … oh right that's never happened.	Saucy emails from Knit Happens: "Do you need a yarn bra?" … do you need a pocket full of puke?	Writing Prizes: Do you have a talent for bulls****ing and a buttload of spare time? Here! Take this extra money!
Parking at night in the admissions lot: Great, can we park in faculty lots after 6 p.m. or are too many professors sleeping in their offices?	Having your pipes freeze: Trust me dude, it's expensive! I left my friend's bong near an open window and that s*** cracked in half.	Cannes at Hamilton: For the sake of competition I'll be screening *8 Mile, The Crow* and *Robocop* at my own festival, "Detroit in Dunham." Please attend, we've included foreclosed houses and stray gunfire for realism.
Late night miGNAR: just like AA, I left smelling weird with a strong need to poo.	HALT Etiquette Dinner: I'd like to assume this is a scheme to lure the most obnoxious contingent of Hamilton together to be trapped and carted off to Colgate, but alas, my dreams are never realized.	Buffergrams: Harassment for-hire comes but once a year.
Another senior pub night: are you trying to get me to plunk down another 40 grand for a fifth year?		Outdoor skating rink rules: #1, don't blow five grand on an outdoor skating rink.

by Anthony DelConte '10, Nathan Fedrizzi '10 and Lesley Ryder '11

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

OPINION

Interdisciplinary Major Process Needs Greater Transparency, Support

by Tracey Ogagba '12
Opinion Writer

Hamilton's website claims that "if the Hamilton curriculum does not meet your specific academic needs or interests, you may design and declare an interdisciplinary concentration involving two or more departments." However when it comes down to crunch time, students are left with more questions than with actual answers. Soon, time will run out for this year's sophomore class and the possibility of designing a custom-fit major will become slim.

When it comes to advising students, Hamilton has a major inconsistency issue. At the start of my sophomore year I had completely forgotten that an interdisciplinary major was even possible until I overheard a fellow pre-orientation leader inform a group of freshmen about his own interdisciplinary concentration. After I decided that was the direction I wanted to take, I was faced with a problem: I had no idea what step I should take next.

The biggest problem is that although Hamilton boasts an open curriculum, there is no central office or body that a student can go to for consultation. There is a major flaw in the system when a student's academic future is dependent on his adviser's knowledge on a subject that Hamilton fails to outline clearly. Sophomores have been getting emails recently on the subject of concentration declaration, with the specific instruction to meet with one's adviser and review one's academic progress. But what good is this when some advisers are unaware of the steps a student needs to take to declare an interdisciplinary major? Some advisers even go as far as to discourage their advisees from even trying because "it's just too much work." Moreover, despite the many emails reminding sophomores that the date to declare is fast approaching, there has yet to be *one single email* explaining the interdisciplinary process. It is irresponsible for administrators to assume all students can find this information out on their own when the Hamilton webpage dedicated to interdisciplinary majors consists of only two paragraphs explaining only the benefits without any helpful facts, deadlines or links to paperwork.

To fix this, Hamilton could at least start by making sure that all advisers are informed on this issue. More importantly, there needs to be a less complex and obscure central location that all Hamilton students are aware of and can access. This center should provide all the resources students need to create an interdisciplinary major. This could be an office, a more helpful website, a senior panel where current students describe their experiences, a person that students can go and consult with or all of the above. It would even be helpful if Hamilton compiled a list of past interdisciplinary majors so students can see what their options are.

All in all, the possibility to design one's own major opens up many doors for innovative students. The possibility to pursue a tailor-made field of study pushes students to be significantly more invested in their classes, and stays true to the spirit of the Hamilton liberal arts curriculum. While this option should be encouraged by Hamilton's administrators, it seems as though it is instead one of the most hidden. This needs to change.

Letters to the Editor

from ***Letters,*** *page 9*

was assembled to identify opportunities to improve the student employment process on campus. As a result of those efforts, a Student Employment Office (under the auspices of Human Resources) is being developed and will provide students with assistance in acquiring employment on campus beginning the Fall 2010 semester. Additional information about this new service will be made available in the coming months.

The Financial Aid Office works closely with leadership throughout campus in an effort to improve the employment process for all students. We recognize the importance Federal Work-Study earnings play in the lives of our students and their families as these proceeds can be used to help fund their Hamilton College education.

Melissa A. Rose
Director
Office of Financial Aid

RE: Federal Work study

To the Editor,

I'm writing to clarify some statements from my letter last week. The *Peterson's* statistics that I cited came from the section listing the "total dollar amounts, number, and average amount of Federal Work Study (FWS) jobs" at Hamilton. These figures were incorrectly reported to the publication by the Office of Financial Aid. It is unfortunate that inaccurate information was given. However, I did misstate the guidelines for community service jobs set by Federal Work-Study laws, which does count jobs like working in the library as service, and thus Hamilton is in full compliance with the letter of the law.

The argument I should have made in my letter is whether we were living up to the spirit of the law by relying on jobs like checking out books to comply with the law. While this standard is totally legal and used by many other colleges, it is hard to see how checking out a book "encourage[s] students receiving federal student financial aid to participate in community service activities that will benefit the nation and engender in the students a sense of social responsibility and commitment to the community," the goal for the work-study program set out in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

While Hamilton cannot do anything about the federal guidelines, we as a community, working with the Trustees and Administration, can try our best to live up to the spirit of the law by creating more service programs that work-study students looking for employment can be funneled towards. This would benefit both our community and the students participating in the program, as a UCLA study of 22,000 students found community service improved performance on a broad range of indicators, from grade-point average to writing skills to self-esteem and racial understanding.

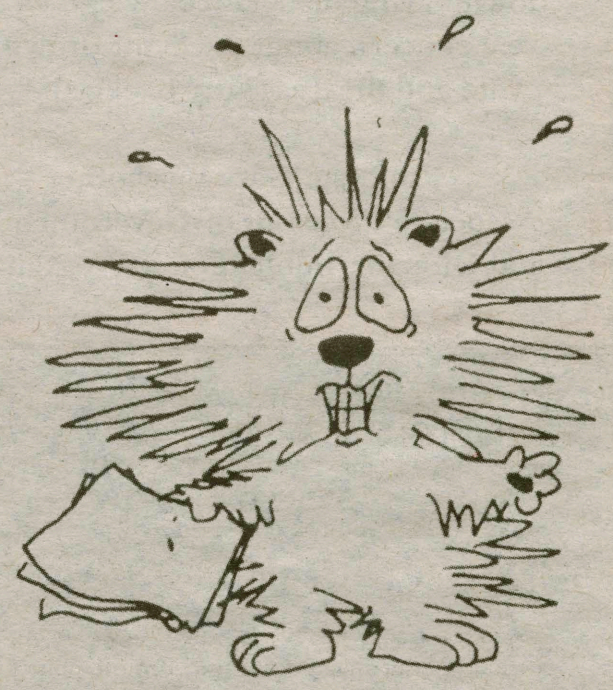
The question I should have asked is not why Hamilton is doing so badly on this standard, but rather how can we do better, becoming a leader among our peer schools in our commitment to fulfilling the spirit as well as the letter of the work-study laws. However, I chose a flawed approach, trying to be provocative to stir public debate. In doing so, I did a disservice to the Office of Financial Aid for insinuating they were violating the letter of the law, and to the goal of encouraging more service on campus. For that, I apologize.

We students ask questions, and in doing so we make mistakes, some bigger than others. That is a critical part of learning. Our questions should be encouraged, even when we make mistakes in pursuing the answers to those questions. Any student that is serious about engaging in the issues facing our community should be treated with the basic level of respect for their motivations and intellectual capacity that all adults are entitled to. I hope that will be the case in the future.

Sincerely,
Will Leubsdorf '10

Uh-ohhh...

Have a paper due soon?
Feeling a wee bit anxious?



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

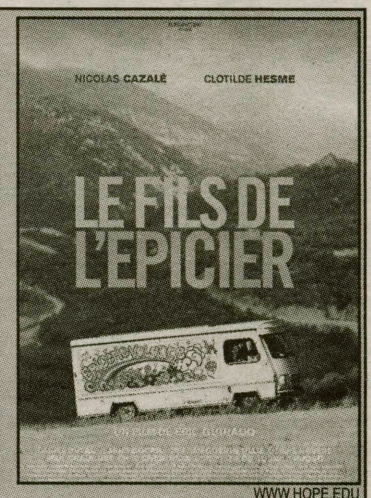
A Little Piece of Cannes in Upstate New York

by Lily Gillespie '12
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Is there anyone who can truthfully say they wouldn't love to attend the Cannes Film Festival? It takes place in a beautiful oceanside town and involves fascinating people and incredible cinema. While attending the real Cannes Film Festival may not be an option for most of us, the French Club will bring a piece of Cannes to Hamilton in the upcoming weeks with the Tournées Film Festival. This is an exciting event for the group, which has been researching the possibility of bringing the festival to campus for months. As club president Brittany Albert '10 explained, "Over the summer I found out about the French Ministry of Culture that gives grants to American Colleges to host the Tournées Film Festival. I thought that that would be an interesting thing to try to do at Hamilton. So I brought it up with the French club, and people seemed excited about it, so we applied and were given the grant." The group then selected the films based on a list they were given by the French Ministry of Culture.

The festival will also give many of the students who have studied abroad in Francophone countries the opportunity "to bring our experience to Hamilton with us," as French Club member Mallory Reed '10 explained. The event is sponsored by the French Department, Cinema and New Media Studies, Student Assembly and the Cultural Education Center. All films will air Sundays at 2 p.m. in KJ Auditorium.

LE FILS DE L'ÉPICIER *THE GROCER'S SON*
Feb. 7



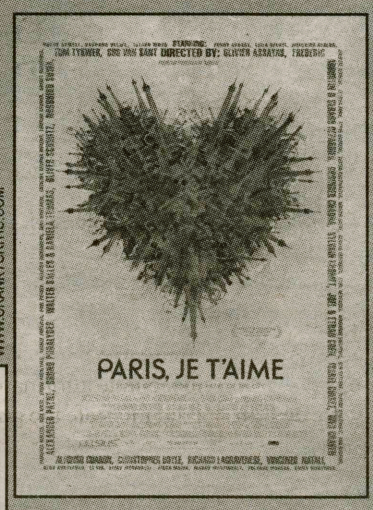
WWW.HOPE.EDU

When his father has a sudden heart attack, it's up to jaded Antoine Sforza, a young man who has distanced himself from his roots, to take over the family business at the age of 30. Leaving behind his dead-end job as a waiter and his tiny apartment in Paris, he grudgingly moves home to Provence, in the south of France, to run a small mobile grocery store. Although Antoine is curt and surly with his customers (as well as with most of the people he meets), he succeeds in bringing to Provence his favorite aspect of Paris: his beautiful, confident neighbor, Claire, upon whom he harbors a secret crush.

PARIS JE T'AIME *PARIS I LOVE YOU*
Feb. 14

Paris, Je t'aime is a patchwork of eighteen short films by different directors. Each one had to tell a story located in one of Paris' "arrondissements," or neighborhoods, in less than five minutes and on a relatively tight budget. This atypical collective film bears the hallmark of major international filmmakers and the names of stellar actors such as Natalie Portman, Gena Rowlands, Elijah Wood, Ben Gazzara and Catherine Deneuve. Among the many witty and serendipitous narratives that make up this portrayal of Paris, a young foreign worker moves from her own domestic situation into her employer's bourgeois neighborhood, an American starlet finds escape as she is shooting a movie, a man is torn between his wife and his lover, and a father grapples with his complex relationship with his daughter.

Paris, Je t'aime offers an interesting perspective on how foreign directors see Paris. Although they are all different in style, the films find unity in the theme that they explore. They all tell a story about the sometimes fragile relationships that bind both people who have recently met and those who know each other well.



WWW.CRANKYCRITIC.COM

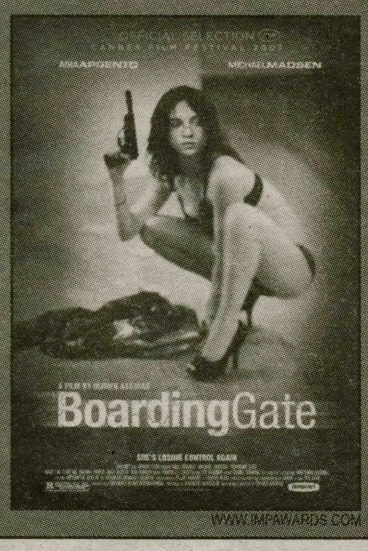
ENTRE LES MURS *THE CLASS*
Feb. 21

The winner of this year's Palme d'Or at Cannes was Laurent Cantet's unsparing, unsentimental film about a teacher and his students at a diverse Parisian junior high school. The film was based on the best-selling book by real-life teacher François Bégaudeau, who also wrote the screenplay and stars in the movie as himself. Working with a cast of non-professional actors, Cantet filmed his "class" for over a year; the result is a hybrid documentary/narrative work that is wholly convincing. *The Class* raises deep, disturbing questions about the motives and prospects of its characters. As François attempts to teach the French language to his multi-ethnic students, many of whom hail from former colonized countries, he offers both the opportunity and the threat of modern cultural assimilation.

WWW.BROKENPROJECTOR.COM

BOARDING GATE
March 7

Director Olivier Assayas has remarked that, with Boarding Gate, he was hoping to make a B movie in English. Far more than an exercise in genre tinkering, shows Assayas's unwavering commitment to the feral talents of his lead actress, the incomparable Asia Argento. Playing an ex-prostitute who needs money to open a club in Beijing, Argento's Sandra approaches her former boyfriend, a corrupt American businessman, for cash. After some kinky sex and spilled blood, Sandra is on the lam, ending up in Hong Kong and trying to save her own life. In exchange for indulging some of Boarding Gate's more nonsensical twists, we are rewarded with one of the most vibrant films of the last few years.



WWW.IMPAWARDS.COM

UN SECRET *A SECRET*
Feb. 28

A Secret follows the life of a Jewish family in post-WWII Paris. François, the son of Maxime and Tania, is a solitary and imaginative child who invents for himself a brother and the story of his parents' past. One day, he discovers a dark family secret that shatters his life forever: before the war and well before François's birth, his father Maxime was married to a woman named Hannah, with whom he had a son. At a wedding, Maxime met Tania, a young, athletic and beautiful swimmer. He fell madly in love but decided to remain faithful to Hannah. When the Nazis invaded France, their Jewish families and friends were deeply divided on what action to take and how they should live their religion and cultural heritage as Jews. Maxime decided to move his family to the free zone and left ahead of them. On her way with her son to meet Maxime, Hannah made a decision that would change her life and that of her family forever, leaving both Maxime and Tania to make difficult choices to survive the war.

WWW.IMPAWARDS.COM

Take a Turn on Hamilton's Very Own *Carousel*

by Katy Mastrocola '13
Arts and Entertainment Writer

This weekend, the members of the Hamilton College Choir will be presenting their annual musical. Not familiar with the choir musical? It is one of the biggest choir events of the year, along with the weeklong choir tour over spring break. All members of the Hamilton College Choir participate in the musical; everyone who wants to perform in the musical has the opportunity to do so, and those who don't want to be onstage help out with the lights, props, costumes and make-up.

While it is a fun experience, it is also a lot of work. Many choir members have been at Hamilton, rehearsing daily for about three to four hours, since Jan. 11. Despite the challenge of putting on a renowned Broadway play, the members of the choir are excited for opening night. "It's going to be a lot a fun," said Tom Williams, '11, "It came together really well… the choir really bonds doing the musical."

This year's musical *Carousel*, written by Rogers and Hammerstein, is world-renowned. *Time Magazine* voted it the best musical of the 20th century, and one of its songs, "You'll Never Walk Alone" is the anthem for the British Liverpool Football Club. *Carousel* is about a young mill girl, Julie Jordan (Andrea Wrobel '13), who marries a rough carousel barker, Billy Bigelow (Clifford Robins '10). Meanwhile, Julie's friend Carrie (Chelsea Wiggins '12) marries the gentle fisherman, Enoch Snow (Michael Breslin '13). Things begin to go awry when Billy can't find a job, forcing him and Julie to move in with their cousin, Nettie, played by Sarah Andrus '12. When Julie becomes pregnant, Billy becomes desperate and robs under the influence of his friend, Jigger (Andrew Steele '10). When Billy is caught and sentenced to life in prison, he faces the gut-wrenching decision: does he go to jail or avoid the guilt he brings his wife by committing suicide? Will he be able to be a loving father? Catch *Carousel,* directed by G. Robert Kolb, to discover the fates of Julie and Billy and hear to some amazing singing from the Hamilton College Choir!

Carousel

February 5 and 6 at 8 p.m.
February 7 at 2 p.m.

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Weekly Charts

MUSIC
(billboard.com)

Top Songs

1. Ke$ha—"Tik Tok"
2. Taylor Swift— "Today Was a Fairytale"
3. Lady Gaga—"Bad Romance"
4. Young Money feat. Lloyd—"BedRock"
5. Justin Bieber feat. Ludacris—"Baby"

Top Albums

1. Various Artists—*Hope for Haiti Now*
2. Susan Boyle—*I Dreamed A Dream*
3. Lady Gaga—*The Fame*
4. Spoon—*Transference*
5. Various Artists—*2010 Grammy Nominees*

MOVIES
(imdb.com)

1. *Avatar*
2. *Edge of Darkness*
3. *When In Rome*
4. *Tooth Fairy*
5. *The Book of Eli*

BOOKS
(New York Times "Best Sellers")

Paperback Fiction

1. *The Lovely Bones, by* Alice Sebold
2. *A Reliable Wife, by* Robert Godrick
3. *Dear John,* by Nicholas Sparks
4. *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo,* by Stieg Larsson
5. *Push,* by Sapphire

Paperback Non-Fiction

1. *The Blind Side,* by Michael Lewis
2. *Three Cups of Tea,* by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin
3. *The Glass Castle,* by Jeannette Wells
4. *Eat, Pray, Love,* by Elizabeth Gilbert
5. *Are You There Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea,* by Chelsea Handler

Armstrong Returns and Catapult Wows

by Taylor Coe '13
Arts and Entertainment Writer

Elizabeth and the Catapult are tired of being known as music school graduates. When I posed a question about their formation during Elizabeth Ziman and Dan Molad's final year at the Berklee School of Music, Ziman scoffed. "How about telling them that we met at clown school? Yes…we were all training for the circus." Molad nodded at their new origin. Jeff Taylor and Alan Hampton heartily ignored the whole interview, eating apple slices at the back of the dressing room. It became clear at once that Ziman and Molad function as the core of the group. While Ziman serves as the chief songwriter, Molad is both the drummer and the part-time sound engineer. Though the group recorded most of their first album, *Taller Children*, in Mike Mogis's Omaha studios, Molad engineered the rest of the album from his home in Brooklyn.

However, before the Brooklyn-based trio took the stage for CAB's first Acoustic Coffeehouse of the semester, Bo Armstrong '09 commanded the Events Barn with a captivating role reversal. Once in charge of planning the Acoustic Coffeehouse, Armstrong stepped up to the stage himself last Thursday. Citing Matt Duke as his favorite singer-songwriter (when managing the Coffeehouse he brought Matt Duke twice), Armstrong covered his "Tidal Waves"—apparent pop pleasure until you notice the dark current of the lyrics. He also played a number of originals, such as "Dance With Me," a song that dates to his junior year at Hamilton.

Though Armstrong has not fully stepped into a musical career since graduating, he sees it in his future. Currently, he works with the Teach For America program in Clarksdale, Mississippi. When his two-year commitment ends, Armstrong says that he will consider moving to New York City, where he already has friends in the music scene. My mention of Jay Nash, a former Acoustic Coffeehouse performer's, time in New York City drew a nod from Armstrong; he would like to forge the same route as Nash: by playing in small clubs and busking on subway platforms.

WWW.MYSPACE.COM

Elizabeth and the Catapult, who performed several songs in the first Acoustic Coffeehouse of the new semester.

Following Armstrong's set, Elizabeth and the Catapult assumed the stage, running through four tracks off *Taller Children*. After a rousing version of the Oedipal-inspired "Momma's Boy," Ziman unleashed the first surprise of the night by offering up guitarist Jeff Taylor as an Alexander Hamilton expert. Taylor demonstrated his repository of knowledge through such motions as emphatically pointing at the spot just over his right hip. "That's where he got shot!" called out Ziman and Taylor nodded.

After the brief Alexander Hamilton trivia, their set shot off in a different direction, leaping into a percussion-based train song followed by the Jeff Taylor-penned "Howl You," easily the most captivating part of the performance, with Ziman and Taylor trading verses across a single microphone. The performers seemed to be in their own little world; not once did either singer look out at the audience, looking only at one another. Joined again by Hampton and Molad, the group jumped into a cover of Joni Mitchell's "Carey," and then promptly left Ziman alone on the stage to play her pop adaptation of a Chopin song. The room was mute as her fingers blurred over the piano keys.

The audience did not want the evening to end. After Elizabeth and the Catapult wrapped up their set with Nilsson's "Coconut" (to which Ziman remarked onstage: "Are we really going to do this?"), the audience chanted them back up for one more song, easily topping off the best Coffeehouse performance of the year. If you enjoyed Elizabeth and the Catapult, be sure to catch another Brooklyn-based act, Katie Costello, who will appear in the next Acoustic Coffeehouse on Feb. 18.

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From paris with love — JOHN TRAVOLTA — DTS — R
●12:50●3:10-5:20-7:30▲9:40

3 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
THE YOUNG VICTORIA ●2:10-6:40 PG

6 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS - BEST PICTURE
PRECIOUS ●3:40▲8:00 R

9 ACADEMY AWARD NOMS - BEST PICTURE & DIRECTOR
AVATAR — IN DIGITAL 3D & DOLBY DIGITAL
●1:00-4:20-7:50 #1 MOVIE! STADIUM SEATING PG-13

EDGE OF DARKNESS ●12:10●2:35-4:55-7:20▲9:45 DTS R
WHEN IN ROME ●12:30●2:50-5:00-7:00▲9:10 PG-13
TOOTH FAIRY ●12:00●2:20-4:40-6:50▲9:05 PG

2 ACADEMY AWARD NOMS - BEST PICTURE & ACTRESS
THE BLIND SIDE 3:50▲9:00 PG-13
LEGION ●12:05-4:30▲8:50 R

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
THE LOVELY BONES ●1:10-6:20 PG-13
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS 2 ●1:45-6:00 PG

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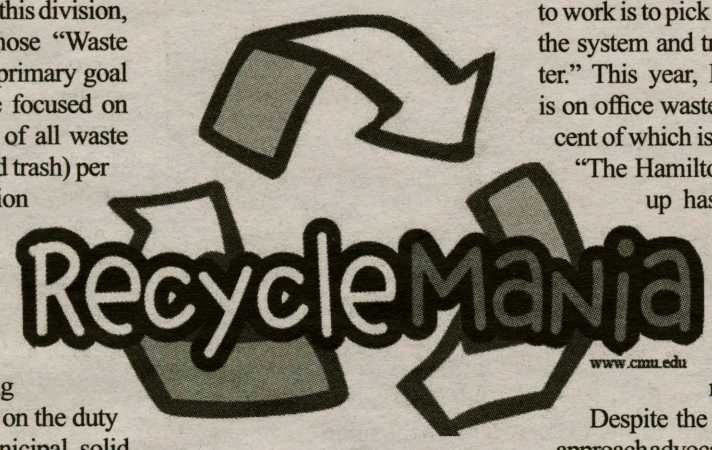
Recyclemania Aims at Minimizing Campus Waste

by Mikayla Irle '12
Science & Technology Writer

RecycleMania, a nationwide collegiate competition designed to encourage waste reduction, kicked off on Jan. 10 with Hamilton joining 606 other colleges in a pledge to reduce waste over a ten-week period. Of the two divisions in RecycleMania, Hamilton opted to place itself in the Competition Division where it will be officially ranked against 382 other schools. Within this division, Hamilton College chose "Waste Minimization" as its primary goal and will therefore be focused on the overall reduction of all waste (both recycleables and trash) per person. The Competition Division demands that waste be carefully measured and formally recorded for the entire campus, so Hamilton's Recycling Task Force has taken on the duty of weighing the municipal solid waste generated every day.

The current group of dedicated students on the Recycling Task Force includes Roxanne Makoff '12, Nathaniel Duncan '12, Jenn Santoro '11 and Kate Harloe '12. Brian Hansen, director of environmental protection, safety and sustainability and Terry Hawkridge, assistant director of grounds, horticulture, and arboretum, supervise the task force and facilitate the management of RecycleMania on campus. The data collected by this team will be tracked and compared to other competing schools from now until March 27.

During the 2009 RecycleMania competition, Hamilton ranked in the 26th percentile of competitive schools. Despite increasing its overall reduction last year from

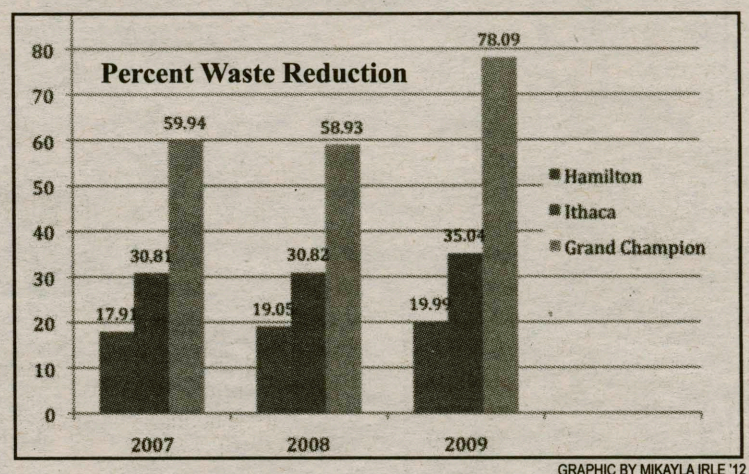


2008, this represents a slight drop in position. "We would like to be as efficient as Ithaca," said Hawkridge, who tracks Hamilton's progress. Out of the 206 competing colleges, Ithaca took 54th place to Hamilton's 152nd place last year and reduced its waste by 15.05 percent more than Hamilton, increasing the reduction margin from 11.77 percent in 2008.

Despite Hamilton's relative drop in competitive position, students have managed to decrease waste steadily from 2007, a trend which will most likely continue with the onset of new waste reduction projects. "Hamilton is not as 'rah-rah' as some of the other schools in the competition," Hawkridge commented. "I don't think being rah-rah at Hamilton will work. What seems to work is to pick a small portion of the system and try to make it better." This year, Hamilton's focus is on office waste, ninety-five percent of which is recyclable paper.

"The Hamilton system has set up has over 350 recycling stations on campus. There is a station close enough for the community to reach easily."

Despite the slow -and-steady approach advocated by Hawkridge as the most effective method for Hamilton's campus, the Recycling Task Force and HEAG have teamed up to make some sudden and effective changes to Hamilton's waste management system. Within the next two weeks, Hamilton plans to introduce a reusable mug system to drastically cut the number of Commons, Opus, and McEwen cups thrown away every day. Members of the Dining Hall HEAG committee place emphasis on making the program as convenient as possible. To address these issues, the committee chose mugs with lids and are placing drop off boxes in high traffic areas along Martin's Way such as Commons, McEwen, KJ, and the Science Center.

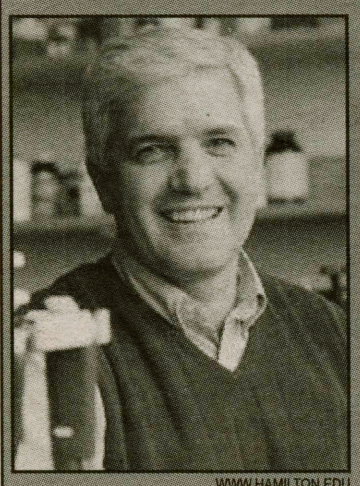


GRAPHIC BY MIKAYLA IRLE '12

"On a larger scale, we are trying to work out an affordable system of post consumer organic waste recycling, composting, from the dining halls," said Hawkridge about the long-term project with which Hamilton has struggled for years. Such a step would make a huge difference in Hamilton's overall waste and would immediately push it into a competitive arena. "If we get a composting program going, we will take 180 tons out of our waste system and that will add about 24 percent to our recycling numbers and with that, we would be a lot more competitive in this contest."

Although RecycleMania is only a ten-week contest, raised awareness has a lasting effect, and organizers of the program hope "participation in the competition… instills in [students] a life-long habit" (recyclemania.org). The question of Hamilton's success in the competition and beyond is ultimately a question of apathy. Says Hawkridge bluntly, "The question is: will the community take the extra step to go to the recycling station and when there, will they try to recycle what is in their hand?

Professor Profile: Biochemistry



WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

by Tim Elgren
Professor of Chemistry

This is part of a series on what research our professors pursue outside of the classroom. It is intended to further the Hamilton Community's understanding of the scientific and academic community we have on campus.

How do you feel about student research at Hamilton?

I'm a big fan of undergraduate research experiences. Really, I support the full spectrum of experiential (or applied) learning experiences which include service learning, civic engagement, study abroad and research.

All of these "immersion" activities have the potential to integrate learning. One of the primary objectives of my research program has been to provide research opportunities accessible to my students.

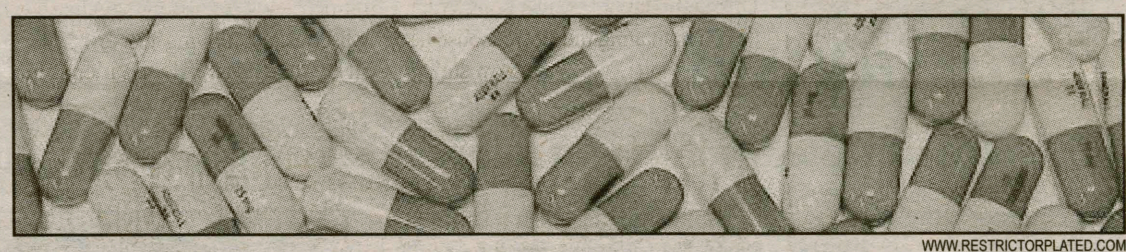
What is your specialty in your field?

I'm formally trained as a bioinorganic chemist. Generally speaking, we study the role of metal ions in biological systems. Specifically, my work has focused on understanding the role of metals in chemistry associated with metal-containing enzymes, biological molecules used to carry out specific reactions.

What research questions are you currently interested in?

A few years ago, we started to explore a technique for immobilizing enzymes in highly porous glass. The glass is transparent, which allows us to use standard spectroscopy methods to study the enzyme. The porous nature of the glass allows the substrate, or the molecule the enzyme is designed to react with, to flow through channels in the glass and access the enzyme. The products that are produced when the substrate interacts with the enzyme can then be

see ***Profile****, page 14*

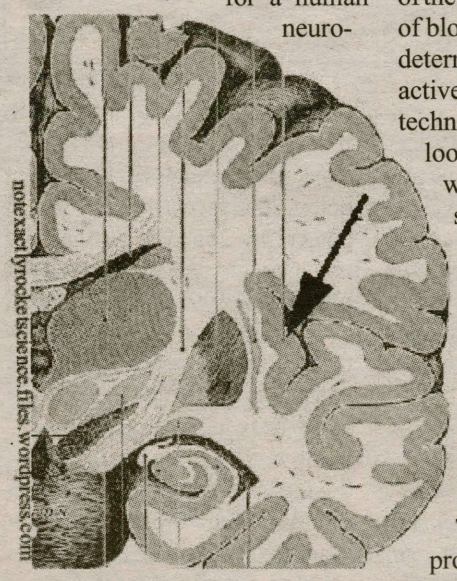


WWW.RESTRICTORPLATED.COM

Neuro Candidate Presents Research on Amphetamine Use

by Ben Trachtman '12
Science and Technology Editor

Various neuroimaging techniques are revealing activation patterns in the brain which correspond to certain behaviors. On Monday, Dr. David Leland gave a presentation entitled "Neuroimaging Cognition as a Mediator Between Motivation and Action," which addressed how certain motivators, such as food or drugs, alter how the brain processes information related to decision-making. Dr. Leland is the third candidate for a human neuroscience position within the neuroscience department; the previous two each gave lectures two weeks ago.



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Dr. Leland focused his presentation on a study he collaborated on which examined the risk-taking behaviors in young adults using stimulants, including prescription drugs, such as Adderall, as well as illegal drugs such as cocaine. Dr. Leland used a imaging technique for this study, called Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). More blood is directed to the more active areas of the brain. fMRI tracks this flow of blood, allowing researchers to determine which areas are most active during certain tasks. This technique is more suitable for looking at different structures within the brain, and this study targeted two areas: the caudate and the insula (see diagram).

The caudate is associated with processing noticeable stimuli, but past studies have shown that greater activations in this structure are correlated with more impulsive behavior. The insula is involved in the processing of emotions and gut feelings. It also processes aversive feedback, such as a failed risk.

Dr. Leland used a task called the risky gains task, in which subjects try to win money but have a chance of losing money in the process. When the subjects lost money, their insula would activate, and they would adopt less risky behavior. The study showed that subjects who used stimulants recreationally had lower levels of activation in the insula and took more risks than subjects who used stimulants as a study aid. There was also overall less insula response in subjects who had used stimulants more frequently.

Now that each of the three candidates for the position has presented a lecture at Hamilton, students are starting to give feedback on who they would prefer to get the job. "Out of the three candidates, I found Dr. Leland's presentation to be the most accessible," said Susannah Parkin '13. "The other two candidates had fascinating research, but I had trouble understanding their precise procedures and findings. David Leland, however, explained his research very clearly. I would enjoy having him in the psychology department."

Professor Research Profile: Tim Elgren, Chemistry

from ***Profile****, page 13*

released from the glass, leaving the enzymes behind.

The enzyme in the glass displays all the characteristics, including activity, of the enzyme in solution, making it just as functional as an enzyme in solution, but in a solid form. Because the enzyme is encased in a solid instead of being suspended in a liquid, the products can be isolated simply by filtering the glass out of the mixture.

These materials open the door to a wide variety of interesting projects that fall under the general objective of "harnessing the catalytic power of an enzyme."

Why did you begin exploring these questions?

What we used to do were advanced spectroscopic techniques (such as UV-vis absorption and Infrared Ramen Spectroscopy) that allowed us to understand the mechanism of these enzymes. With one of the enzymes we were looking at, we thought that we were having a problem of our enzyme intermediate reacting with other enzymes.

And so we needed to try to devise an experiment where we could separate the protein molecules from each other so that they didn't react with each other. The problem is we had to use really high concentrations of the enzyme in order to be able to see them using the method that we used. So it was a dilemma that we had to somehow solve.

Using porous glass seemed like the perfect method because essentially by immobilizing the enzymes they can't react with each other so they're impregnated in this glass and it allows for that kind of reactivity.

As it turned out, the method completely didn't work for that protein. We thought maybe we just didn't know how to properly do the immobilization experiments. We backed up and started to do careful studies to convince ourselves that we could immobilize proteins and physically characterize them. We've gone on to successfully immobilize about a dozen proteins since, but it never worked for the first enzyme we were studying.

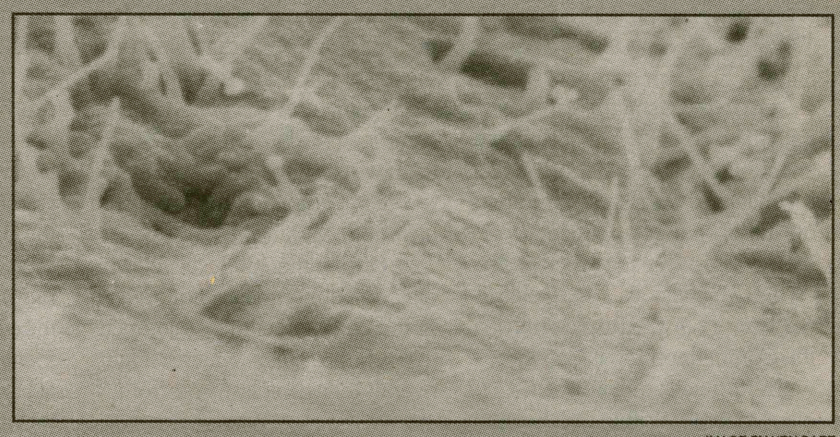


IMAGE BY KEN BART

Amy Barrows '08 laced glass with carbon nanotubes (above) for her Senior Fellowship work with Professor Elgren.

What have you found so far towards answering your questions?

Currently we're focused on a number of enzyme systems and have filed two patents (the first in the history of the college). One of the patents covers the encapsulation, or process of trapping an enzyme in glass, of hydrogenase. This is an enzyme that catalyzes the production of hydrogen from water. We've recently included a photocatalyst in the material so that we can provide electrons required for hydrogen production by using photons. When we shine light on these glasses, they produce hydrogen.

We've just recently published a paper that includes work from Amy Barrows' 2008 Senior Fellowship thesis that reports the synthesis of a hydrogenase encapsulated in glass laced with carbon nanotubes, complex structures formed by multiple carbon atoms.

These materials have even greater activity than just the enzyme in solution. Currently, we have six other enzyme systems that we're exploring, leaving plenty of work for many years to come.

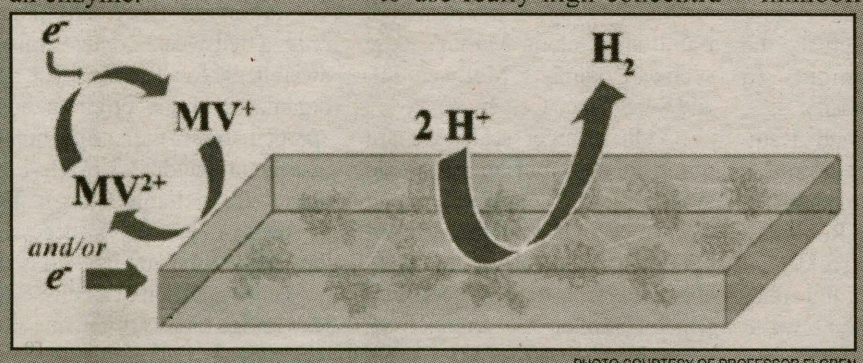


PHOTO COURTESY OF PROFESSOR ELGREN

When light hits the enzymes embedded in the glass, the photons fuel a reaction which allows production of hydrogen from water.

Emissions Reduction Plans Released by US, EU, China

55 countries pledge to reduce greenhouse gasses by 2020 following Copenhagen Conference

by Yinghan Ding '12
Science & Technology Writer

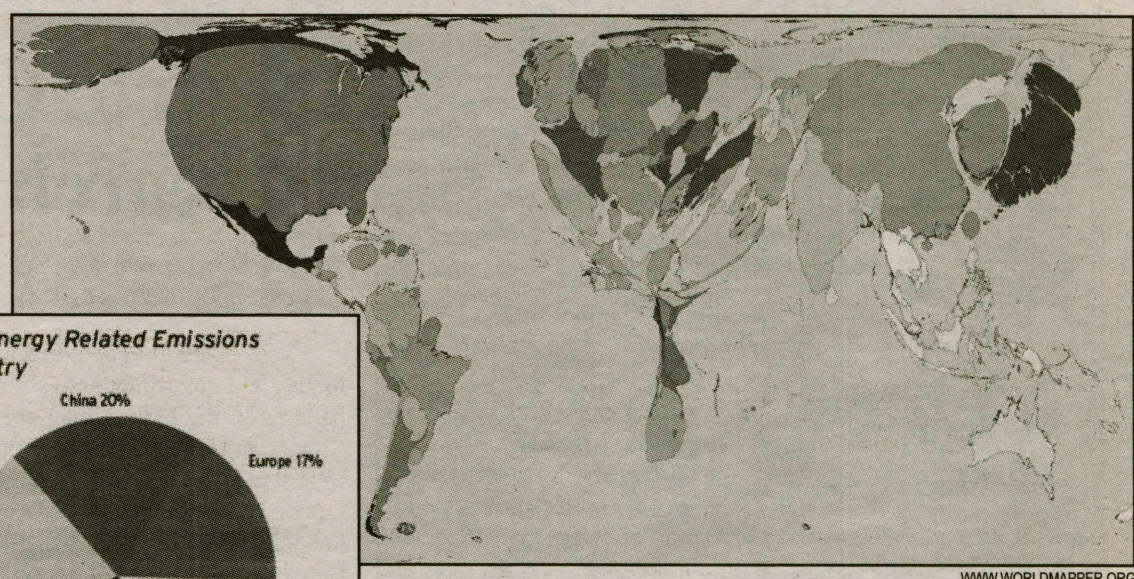
Following the climate change accord reached in Copenhagen in December 2009, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has received formal submissions of national pledges from 55 countries to cut and limit greenhouse gases by 2020. The UNFCCC is the organization responsible for overseeing global climate and emissions negotiations.

These 55 countries together account for 78 percent of global emissions from energy use, so their emission reduction commitments, if honored, would be a big step on the road to victory in tackling climate change. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world's top six regions with highest carbon dioxide emissions are China, the United States, the European Union, Russia, India and Japan, and those six regions alone contribute to 71 percent of global emissions. Even though all these six regions promise to cut emissions, the effectiveness of their plans casts overwhelming doubt around the world. Here are the plans of the top three emissions-producing regions.

No. 3 The European Union: *3,914 million metric tons of CO2, 13.8 percent of total global emissions*

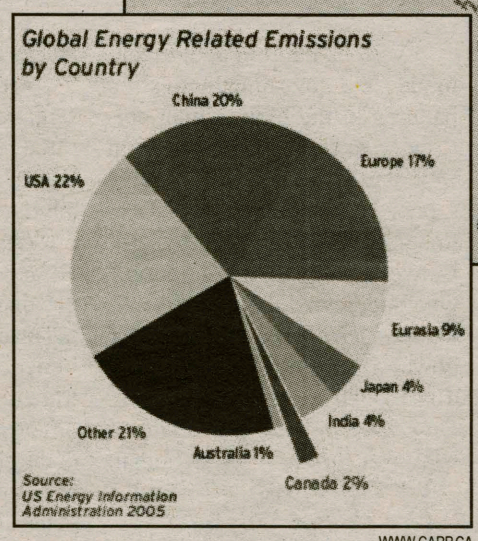
The European Union said its 27 members would cut emissions by 20 to 30 percent of 1990 emission levels by 2020, and slash emissions by up to 95 percent by 2050. Though the EU also attempted to fund developing countries in their battles against climate change, some of the biggest problems came from its member states. First, there was a debate on whether the EU should specify its emissions cut target. Countries like Germany and Italy were reluctant to name a figure publicly, believing that it would weaken the European bargaining position.

Second, there was a debate on whether the EU should subsidize developing countries like China and India whose economies are rapidly growing. For the EU, the dispute is over the feasibility and logistical issues of emission cuts: right now, there is no mechanism in place to collect or distribute the proposed subsidizing money to developing countries, and longer-term aid pledges just remain a concept on paper. Of course, the development levels of member states in the EU vary, so it is questionable how the EU is going to fairly distribute its ambitious emission cuts to individual countries.



WWW.WORLDMAPPER.ORG

In the diagram above, countries are sized according to their carbon emissions. Larger countries emit more.



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No. 2 The United States: *5,752 million metric tons of CO2, 20.2 percent of total global emissions*

At the international climate meetings in Copenhagen last year, President Obama told the delegates that the United States intended to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in the range of 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050. Being the only major country in the world that did not sign the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, a treaty that requires its members to reduce the emissions of various greenhouse gases, the United States faced overwhelming criticism over the years for acting irresponsibly. For the United States, the concern is the pressure from domestic legislation: on the one hand, Obama couldn't promise more than Congress might eventually deliver when it takes up climate change legislation; on the other hand, if the President does not offer any concrete pledge, the United States will bear the brunt of the blame for the failure of an international agreement to be reached in Copenhagen. As a result, we did not see a comprehensive and legally binding treaty reached, and the United States was blamed for not taking a credible commitment.

No. 1 China: *6,103 million metric tons of CO2, 21.5 percent of total global emissions*

Last year, China surpassed the United States to become the biggest carbon emitter in the world. The State Council announced that China was going to reduce the intensity of carbon dioxide emissions proportional with its economy in 2020 by 40 to 45 percent compared with the level of 2005. According to the D.C.-based Center for Clean Air Policy, China's goal would result in a 1.6 billion ton cut in emissions. The Chinese plan seemed ambitious, but it was not problem free either. For China, the matter in dispute over trifles is the level of responsibility China needs to take: China strongly believes that countries have "common goal but differentiated responsibilities," and developed countries should not only take more responsibility but provide developing countries more technical and financial support. The loose commitments by other major developed countries cast doubts on how much responsibility China will actually take.

Women's Basketball Bounces Back

Three rookies prove vital in recent Liberty League winning streak

By Riley Smith '12
Sports Writer

The Continentals returned to their winning ways with three consecutive victories, rebounding from their winter break slump. The women's basketball team holds an impressive 11-6 record this season, which is partially due to a dominating six-game winning streak to start to the season. However, upon their early return from winter break they lost momentum and fell into a three-game skid.

After a disappointing loss to Skidmore on Jan. 16, the Continentals refocused their strategy for their next week of home games. Hamilton pulled out of the week with a 2-1 record, beating Middlebury College 63-52 and Vassar 71-60. Hamilton's single loss of the week came on Friday, Jan. 22 in a 54-63 game against Rensselaer in which the Continentals pulled within two points of Rensselaer multiple times in the second half, but were unable to capitalize on these opportunities to secure the win.

Against Middlebury however, Reisa Asimovic '11 tied her career high with 19 points, six assists and five rebounds, and led her team to their fourth consecutive win against the Panthers. Hamilton kept a comfortable lead over Middlebury throughout the game thanks to excellent performances by Asimovic, Eliza Howe'13 and Blue Sanders '13. Lisa Olszewski '11 also helped them greatly on the defensive end.

In the victory against Vassar College, Hamilton was led by seniors Cate Schafer '10, who contributed a career-high 17 points, and Alex Sowinski '10, who added 14 points. Furthermore, the team was helped greatly by the first-year combination of Madie Harlem '13 (16 points), Howe and Sanders. Hamilton shot a season-best 53 percent from the field.

The team followed up their successful week with an unrelenting weekend in the far north, where they gained decisive victories against St. Lawrence University and Clarkson University. Harlem, Sowinski, and Kim Goidell '13 scored 10 points apiece against Clarkson, helping the Continentals battle through the first half and then extend their lead in the second. The victory was sealed with the help of some tough Hamilton defense, which forced 27 Clarkson turnovers.

The following day, Hamilton came back out with the same intensity against St. Lawrence, maintaining the lead throughout the entire game and putting them above .500 for Liberty League play.

Howe gained recognition for her contributions with her second Liberty League Rookie of the Week award this season. Howe averaged 10.3 points in the last three games and made 10 out of 11 free throws. Previously this year, Harlem was awarded the Rookie of the Week Award three times, and Sanders has also received the honor. These first-years have been contributing in a big way to the team so far this season. This new talent, combined with the experience of the returners, makes for a dangerous lineup.

The Continentals are back on track and turning heads right and left. With only seven games remaining, all of which are Liberty League contests, the team remains confident they can secure a top-four finish in the Liberty League.

Come out and support your Continentals in their upcoming home games. Hamilton is looking for victory in their rematch against Skidmore College Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. in the Field House on Feb. 6. The Conts will then tip off against Union at 2 p.m. The following weekend Hamilton seeks to secure a final two victories in their last two home games of the year against St. Lawrence at 6 p.m. Feb. 12, and against Clarkson on Feb. 13 at 2 p.m. The team will attempt to continue their winning momentum.

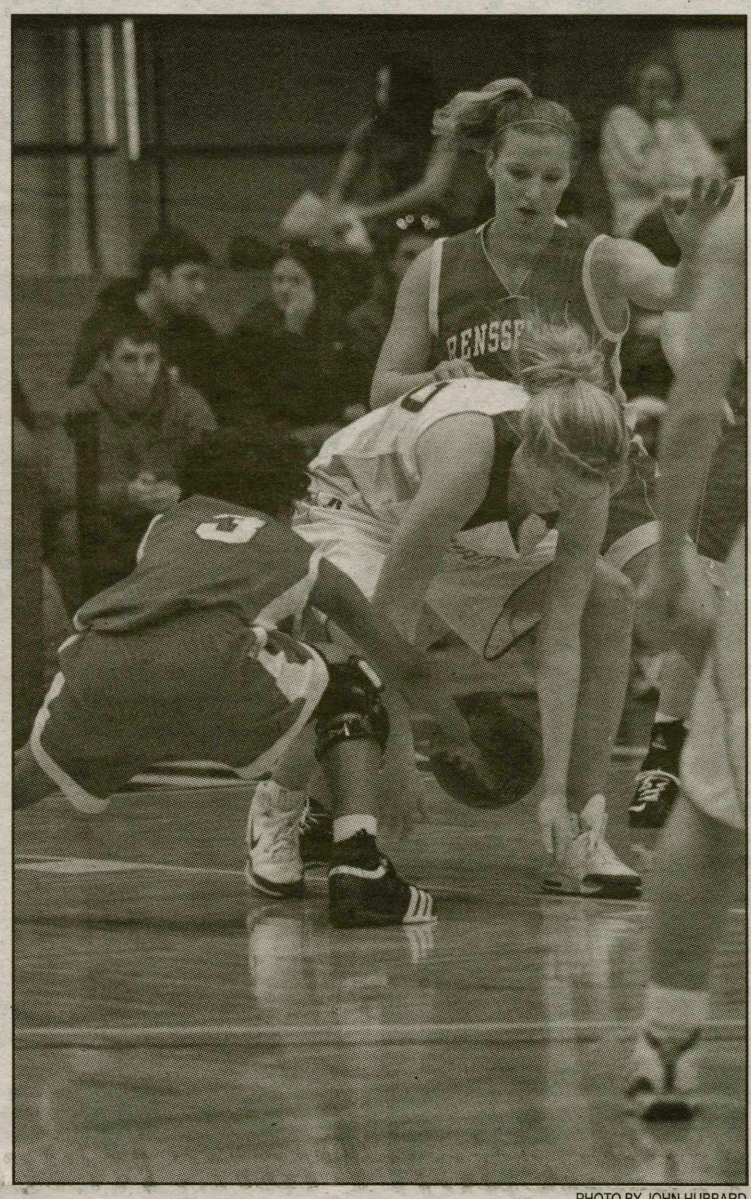

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Foward Lisa Olszewski '11 fights for possession of the ball.

Aiming for 2nd Seed

*from **Men's Hockey** page 16*

team's last 13 goals. But Coach Bazin acknowledges that it is more than a few individuals who keep the team going.

"We've always had production from Lorenc, Buicko and [Tom] Chiappetta '11, now we are getting major offensive contributions from others such as [Harry] Biggs '10, [Bryan] Kelly '12, [Jerome] Wallace '10, Scarpino, [Steve] Lucchetti '12 and [Anthony] Ruberto '13. Everyone is finding the role they suit best and playing it to the best of their abilities."

The Continentals have a huge weekend coming up. They are only two points out of second place in their conference, and their two opponents, Colby and Bowdoin, are right in the race with Hamilton.

Colby is currently tied with Hamilton, and Bowdoin is two points ahead of both teams. Buicko thinks at this rate, the team could meet their original goals for the season:

"One of our goals was not only to make the playoffs, but to have home ice advantage in the playoffs. [If] we continue our commitment to team defense, team systems play and discipline, we give ourselves the chance to be playing in Sage Arena come playoff time."

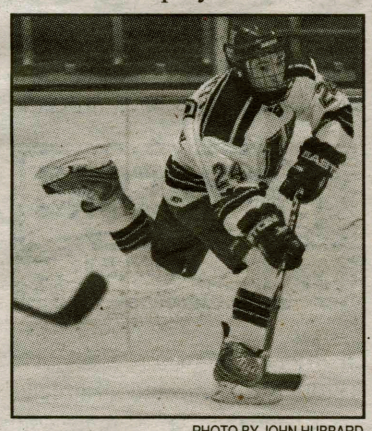

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Forward Steven Luchetti '12.

Ready for NESCAC

*from **NESCAC** page 16*

All other teams in the Liberty League are already practicing lacrosse. We can't start until Feb. 17 even though we don't play other NESCAC schools. It'll put us on equal footing.

Do you think the NESCAC is more competitive than the Liberty League?

Both leagues are very competitive and very good. If you looked at points gathered by NESCAC in terms of NCAA championships, you could argue that the NESCAC is stronger but the Liberty League is very strong too.

Do you anticipate any problems or challenges?

I'm sure there will be some. The biggest problem so far has been scheduling. We're the eleventh school. All of a sudden it creates problems because someone has to sit with a bye week.

How did the other NESCAC schools respond to Hamilton's entrance?

It's been mixed. From a philosophical standpoint they're all on board and they're all welcoming, but from a pragmatic standpoint it's difficult. There was the problem of the odd team out. They're not thrilled from a scheduling standpoint, but they understand why we want to get in.

How did coaches and players here react to the change?

There's a lot of excitement from our student athletes. It's exciting for the students to go up against Amherst, Williams, etc. For example, I heard from a professor today that one of his students was really excited about NESCAC and being able to play in the league before he graduates.

Blue Horsepower

*from **Colts** page 16*

very fact that the Colts roster is full of Pro Bowlers should be another indicator that they deserve to win. Unlike other teams, the Colts don't buy Pro Bowlers in Free Agency – they build them!

One can still argue that the Saints need this victory for their city more than the Colts. And I agree. A Super Bowl win would be a great thing for New Orleans. But let's remember this: before Peyton Manning came to Indianapolis, the city was best known for the Indy 500 and college basketball. It was only with Manning at center that Indianapolis developed into a football powerhouse. The fans in Indianapolis identify themselves with the Colts just as much as the fans in New Orleans do with the Saints. After a long time of football insignificance, the city finally can take pride in their football team just as New Orleans takes pride in the Saints.

In the end, I strongly believe that the better team will win on Sunday. If it is the New Orleans Saints, they will be a great champion. But the Indianapolis Colts would be just as great a champion, if not better. So unless you're entertaining a grudge-fueled rivalry with the Colts (i.e. if you are a Patriots fan, in which case I understand that no argument can convince you to support the best team of the decade), I encourage you to root for Peyton's team!

Big Easy Brees-y

*from **Saints** page 16*

took them 27 years to have a winning season. It took them until 2000 just to win a playoff game! The Colts, meanwhile, have two Super Bowl titles and the most regular season wins in the previous decade. In terms of karma, justice and general deservedness, the Saints franchise is the clear winner.

In the end, football is just a game. But sometimes, albeit rarely, it can mean a whole lot more. When New Yorkers were kicked in the gut by 9/11, Mike Piazza supplied a surreal moment of jubilance with a game-winning home run ten days later. When Brett Favre lost his father and brother-in-law, and discovered his wife had breast cancer, football offered him an emotional reprieve.

For the people of New Orleans, a Super Bowl win could work in a similar fashion. While it has been almost five years since Hurricane Katrina, the city of New Orleans is still recovering. Bourbon Street may be lit, but the side streets are still barren. Again, I don't mean to suggest that a Super Bowl victory makes up for Katrina. Life is simply bigger than that. But as my best friend from Tulane put it, "this city really needs a winner right now, and the Saints are giving them a lot of joy."

Let them do the same for you.

A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY

Volume L Number 15

H SPECTATOR SPORTS

February 4, 2010

Faceoff:

SUPER BOWL XLIV

The Colts are in the Super Bowl for the second time after 2006. Success will come again.

by Daniel Hagemeier '11
Sports Editor

In our scattered media landscape, only a few events still legitimate television's status as a mass medium. No other event unites so many people in front of the black box with such regularity as the Super Bowl. With Super Bowl XLIV only a few days away, it is time to decide which team to root for, the New Orleans Saints or the Indianapolis Colts. If you choose wisely, you'll side with the Indianapolis Colts.

Many people will tell you to root for the New Orleans Saints because they are the underdog. But how can you call a team which has such versatility and boasts the best offense in football (according to the numbers) an underdog? Unless you openly admit that the Indianapolis Colts are the better team, you can't.

So if they are the better team, why would you not root for them? "May the best team win!" – Why would you change that paradigm for the greatest game of all? The Colts feature one of the premier offenses in the NFL, not just this year but in this decade. Peyton Manning is arguably the best quarterback of all time. The

*see **Colts** page 15*

PHOTO BY LESLEY RYDER '11

Bryan Kelly '12 scores the first goal in Hamilton's victory over University of Southern Maine.

Hockey Skates to Win Streak

by David Meisel '13
Sports Writer

It is fire on the ice: the Hamilton's men's hockey team has been on a roll since we all changed our calendars and started classes again. After having difficulty against top-ranked teams, Hamilton is once again on a roll. The Continentals head into their Saturday, Feb. 5 matchup at Colby College riding a three-game winning streak.

The team has done a great job improving its defense and goaltending. Second-year Head Coach Norm Bazin believes his team is buying into their system and doing a great job at playing as a team.

"When our team plays the system well, we become a very tough team to play against."

Captain Joe Buicko '11 echoed this sentiment:

"I don't think there is one person in particular who has been key…but rather a new found commitment to team defense."

Buicko added that the team's depth and the job done by backups filling in due to injuries have instilled a great deal of confidence in the squad.

The men's squad allowed six or more goals in almost half of their first twelve games. During this stretch, their record was 5-6-1. But their overall record now stands at 10-6-1; 5-0-1 in their last six games, all NESCAC contests. And since giving up six goals to Amherst on Jan. 12 (their last loss), they have given up an average of just 2.5 goals per game.

Goalkeepers Calvin Bartel '13 (7-3-1 record) and Scott Hefferman '11 (3-3-1) have split time in the net. Bartel, however, may be cementing his place as a starter. He stopped 30 of 32 shots in a 2-2 tie against Castleton State and 27 of 28 shots in a 4-1 win against the University of Southern Maine.

On Jan. 30, Bartel relieved Hefferman after University of New England scored four goals in the game's first 34 minutes. Bartel stopped all six shots he saw in the remaining time. He ended up earning the win as the Continentals rebounded from a 4-2 deficit and won in overtime, 5-4. Coach Bazin believes, though, that the goaltending core is four deep.

Beyond Bartel and Hefferman, "[Ian] Stearns '10 and [Cameron] Gibbar '13 seem ready to play if called upon."

Buicko, Chris Lorenc '10 and Anthony Scarpino '12 have continued to assert themselves as the team's offensive leaders. Respectively, they have seven, five and three points in their last four games, and six of the

*see **Men's Hockey** page 15*

ALL LOGOS FROM WWW.NFL.COM

Faceoff:

SUPER BOWL XLIV

The Saints earned their first trip to the Super Bowl ever. A win will cap off their fantastic season.

by John Wulf '12
Sports Writer

You and 100 million other Americans are going to watch the most-viewed television event of the year this Sunday – the Super Bowl. Some of you will tune in because you actually like football, others for the commercials. But no matter your reason, you need to pick a team to root for. It's what turns passivity into activity, a touchdown into a TOUCHDOWN. So since you're going to watch, and because you need to cheer, here's my plea to you: cheer for the New Orleans Saints.

Now, if you're the type of person who hates little children and sympathizes with Jay Leno, then this argument may not be for you. If, however, you have a conscience and a predisposition towards underdogs, then hear me out. You should root for the Saints because a Super Bowl victory would mean more to them, their fans and their city than to any other team.

The Saints are one of the lowliest franchises in NFL history. Not only have they never won a Super Bowl, they haven't even been *in* a Super Bowl. It

*see **Saints** page 15*

From the Source: Hind Talks NESCAC Move

Athletic Director Jon Hind has led the Athletic Department since June 2007. He manages the 28 varsity athletic programs, club sport programs, the atheltic facilities, intramurals and the physical education department. Sports Editor Daniel Hagemeier '11 talked to him about the status of the Athletic Program's transition to the NESCAC.

Where does Hamilton currently stand in the NESCAC integration process?

It's a pretty long process because of scheduling. People are editing the schedules with a two year commitment: one year you come to our school, one year we come to your's. So at the time we're trying to transition to a different league, you have to have some leeway to get out of the schedules you're already in. The decision was approved last year that we would go fully into the NESCAC, but then we needed the two academic years, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, to transition our schedules. When we go into the fall 2011, the seven Liberty League teams (soccer, lacrosse, basketball, field hockey) will go fully into NESCAC.

What was the initial reason to go into NESCAC?

It was a lot of different reasons. One of them is aligning ourselves with the institutions we're already playing against in 21 of 28 sports. We were a charter member of the NESCAC, a lot longer than a charter member of the Liberty League. Along the same lines, we wanted to align ourselves with our peer institutions as it became problematic and confusing to be continually

NESCAC New England Small College Athletic Conference

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in different leagues. We've got to a point where our student athletes associated themselves more with the NESCAC schools. It's just where more of their friends are. It also got confusing in terms of recruiting. There was a sense that we needed to move all sports into one league.

Another confusion was that we follow all the NESCAC rules even for the seven sports who are not in the NESCAC. The NESCAC has much more confining rules than the NCAA. For example, NCAA schools start much earlier with practice. We felt our seven sports were disadvantaged.

*see **NESCAC** page 15*